

Hafa Adai!

Level playing field for Medicare, Medicaid sought for territories. » **PAGE 7**

KHS: Impostor posed as counselor to solicit funds on behalf of school. » **PAGE 18**

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75¢

US govt says it will offer cascade of evidence against TDHC owner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government wants to offer during trial Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's prior currency transaction reports filings with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network and its embattled owner's failure to pay wages to its employees.

» **Jury trial of Tinian Dynasty moved to June 30**

RELATED NEWS

► **Saipan casino commission chief: Tinian Dynasty case is 'serious'**
PAGE 18

As this developed, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona moved the jury trial of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., the owner of Tinian Dynasty, to June 30, 2015 instead of tomorrow, Tuesday.

See TDHC on Page 4

CNMI leaders give tribute to Camacho

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

CNMI leaders gave a final tribute to Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant for public transportation Thomas Camacho, who succumbed to cancer last week. He was just 55 years old.

Led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, officials lined up to view Camacho's remains and offer their condolences to Camacho's family at a memorial service held at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Saturday morning.

The Inos administration also

presented a plaque of appreciation honoring Camacho's years in public service and his "commitment to advancing disability policies and for the distinction of serving as the CNMI's first Special Assistant for Public Transportation."

"No words can express our sense of loss for a dear friend

See TRIBUTE on Page 4

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres led other government dignitaries in giving their final respects to COTA special assistant Thomas Camacho in a memorial at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Saturday.

JOEL PINAROC

FOR STATUS REPORT ON VACANT MANAGER POSITIONS

Fletcher: CUC aims to beat EPA deadline

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
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REPORTER

Alan Fletcher, the outgoing executive director of the Commonwealth Utility Corp., said they will meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's hard



Fletcher

deadline for a plan on how to fill vacant senior manager positions that are critical to the utility.

One of these positions is Fletcher's. The executive director is expected to leave before the month ends. The CUC board has chosen not to renew his

contract past its July 14 expiration date.

"We have to meet that [30-day deadline] requirement," Fletcher told reporters on Friday. "And two, we hope to beat the requirement."

Right now, the deputy executive director, division manager for drinking water and wastewater, and the technical

See FLETCHER on Page 4

Consultant chosen for draft EIS review

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos has selected a consultant to conduct a third-party review of the draft environmental impact statement on proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pagan.

In a statement on Friday, the administration said "through a multi-step evaluation process and in accordance with CNMI Procurement Regulations under the Expedited Purchase Clause, [it] has selected the best possible and responsive bidder under the Scope of

See EIS on Page 4



INSIDE



LOCAL

Johora Paeda graduates with a Masters in School Counseling from Northern Kentucky University.

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LOCAL

Hundreds join the 5K "Run for Nepal" spearheaded by the Nepalese Community and SYP.

» **PAGE 20**



LOCAL

A Japanese entertainment group holds a peace memorial at Last Command Post.

» **PAGE 21**



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Local

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio will recommend to the tourism body's board to focus on

destination enhancement projects on the south side of Saipan.

"Improvement on tourist sites are still ongoing. We have three high-end ticket projects that we are focusing on, but we are also working to improve other tourist sites," Tenorio said.

ist sites," Tenorio said.

Lawmakers earlier recommended that MVA not only focus on the north end of the island but the south end as well.

"The biggest challenge with the south area and beaches there is accessibility to the beach. However, I suppose we can have a discussion with our board and Department of Public Works to prevent seasonal damage to those roads and facilitate access to Obyan Beach, Ladder Beach, and Lao Lao Beach," Tenorio said.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang told *Saipan Tribune* that they are assisting with the south side of the island and are planning on clearing the road leading to the beaches.

"We're focusing on Forbidden Island first, because we already finished the two other beaches in Kagman. We will move to Obyan and then Lao Lao and other

south side beaches that tourists go to," Apatang said.

Earlier Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerreo (R-Saipan) told Tenorio that maybe he can discuss and consider putting up funds to fix those roads.

"Tourist that go to the south side area would park their cars and walk down to Obyan. This would entice criminal activities to break into the cars and we have to keep in mind that we want the tourists to be safe," Guerrero said.

Tenorio said that MVA is aware that there are areas on the island that tourists visit but are not openly available to mass visits with buses.

"We can discuss and consider expanding our destination enhancement and include those as our future tourist sites," Tenorio said.

Tenorio noted that MVA's

destination enhancement committee is currently focused on the relighting of the Beach Road pathway, the "Flower Island" project, and the Banzai Cliff renovation projects. Smaller projects include the fixing of the railways at Banzai, Bird Island, and other tourist sites.

One other smaller project is the renovation of the Last Command Post bathroom, so that Banzai Cliff's bathroom will be closed and MVA will inform tour operators to tell their guests that the Last Command Post will be the only stop for bathroom breaks in Marpi.

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MVA: Improvement of tourist sites ongoing

Obama declares federal disaster area for Guam

HAGATÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued Saturday the following statement regarding President Barack Obama's declaration of a federal disaster area for Guam in response to Typhoon Dolphin. The declaration frees up federal funds for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation grant programs to help with recovery efforts.

"I appreciate President Obama's grant of a federal disaster declaration for Guam fol-

lowing Typhoon Dolphin. This declaration will free up federal funds to help our community fully recover from the typhoon and return to a state of normalcy. I commend our local and federal agencies for their efforts in ensuring that our community was prepared for Typhoon Dolphin and for their work in responding in its aftermath. I look forward to these funds helping our community return to normal." (Office of the Delegate)

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Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



Regulators eyeing audit of poker machines in CNMI

By **JOEL PINAROC**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission will be conducting an audit and inventory of some 700 poker machines in the CNMI and will tap a foreign firm to conduct the certification of the machines.

Casino commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said this is in preparation for the commission's eventual takeover of regulating these machines from the Department of Finance.

Deleon Guerrero said GLI, a certification company based in Australia, is being eyed to as-

sist the commission with the planned audit.

There was no schedule given on the actual audit.

But Deleon Guerrero said a representative from GLI visited the CNMI last week and conducted an on-the-spot audit of a poker parlor and found out that most of the machines no longer meets new certifications because most of the machines are already "old."

According to Deleon Guerrero, the oldest machines were manufactured in 1985, while the most current machine was manufactured in 1991.

Deleon Guerrero said the vendors or manufacturers of

these machines also no longer conduct on-site certifications.

Aside from regulating the casino industry, the casino commission's jurisdiction will also include poker and pachinko machines and e-gaming in general.

Deleon Guerrero said the commission can expect to "be busy" with the audit, once it begins and that more manpower will be needed.

Currently, the license fee per poker machine on Saipan is \$12,500, but the law prohibits the issuance of licenses for these machines starting April of this year. The law will only allow new machines to be used exclusively inside approved es-

tablishments including hotels and casinos. The purpose of the law is to stop the proliferation of poker parlors or poker rooms on the CNMI.

First provisional license

Deleon Guerrero, meanwhile, disclosed that the casino commission has issued the first provisional license for a casino vendor outside the CNMI.

The casino vendor will have

now have a provisional license to provide its machines to Best Sunshine International, Ltd. Deleon Guerrero said Konami Gaming, a global company, met the commission's requirements. Konami Gaming also paid the \$7,500 provisional license fee as required by the commission.

"We have one approved provisional license, but we received four responses so far," Deleon Guerrero said.

A vendor wanting to conduct business with BSI needs a provisional license from the casino commission.

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\$30M Rural Business development grant available

HILO, Hawaii—Chris J. Kanazawa, State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced that \$30 million is now available to farmers, ranchers and food entrepreneurs to develop new product lines. Funding will be made available through USDA's Value-Added Producer Grant program.

"The Value Added Producers Grant program not only enables farmers and ranchers with opportunities to increase their income from their farming activities, it also increases jobs and expands the food choices for Hawaii's families," said Kanazawa. "Hawaii's agriculture community has demonstrated a long his-

tory of innovation and the VAPG program provides an excellent resource to perpetuate this tradition."

USDA plans to make approximately \$30 million in grants available. Applications will be accepted through July 8, 2015. More information on how to apply can be found on page 26528 of the May 8, *Federal Register* (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-05-08/pdf/2015-10440.pdf>).

VAPG grants can be used to develop new product lines from raw agricultural products or additional uses for already developed product lines. Military veteran, socially-disadvantaged, and beginning farmers and ranchers; operators

of small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches; farmer and rancher cooperatives; and for applicants that propose mid-tier value chain projects are given special priority in applying for VAPGs. Additional priority is given to group applicants who seek funding for projects that "best contribute" to creating or increasing marketing opportunities for these type of operators.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded 853 Value-Added Producer Grants totaling \$104.5 million. Approximately 19 percent of the grants and 13 percent of total funding has been awarded to beginning farmers and ranchers. During the 2013-2014 funding cycle,

nearly half of VAPG awards went to farmers and ranchers developing products for the local food sector. Value Added Producer Grants are a key element of the USDA's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Initiative which coordinates the department's work on local and regional food systems. Secretary Vilsack has identified local and regional food systems as one of the four pillars of rural economic development.

Congress increased funding for the VAPG program when it passed the 2014 Farm Bill. That law builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since the bill's enactment,

USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including expanding access to rural credit, developing new markets for rural-made products, and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farmbill.

For more information on the VAPG program, contact one

of the following Business Programs Specialist:

■ Shirley Heatherly at (808) 541-2600, Ext. 139 or shirley.heatherly@hi.usda.gov for Oahu, Kauai; and American Samoa;

■ Lori Nekoba at (808) 933-8312 or lori.nekoba@hi.usda.gov for Maui and Hawaii County;

■ Anthony Barcinas at (671) 300-8567 or anthony.barcinas@pb.usda.gov for Western Pacific. **(USDA)**

TRIBUTE

From Page 1

and colleague. Tom was a quiet and unassuming friend who dedicated a major part of his public service to creating programs to assist our community members with disabilities and their families," Inos said in a statement.

Aside from government dignitaries, employees and officials of COTA were also present.

Burial rites immediately fol-

lowed at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Camacho's legacy will continue to be the COTA programs that he envisioned for the CNMI, according to Vince C. Merfalen, mobility management and transit coordinator.

Merfalen said COTA was established in May 2011 and from the start, it was Camacho leading the way for the agency's programs. "Even his position [as special assistant for public transportation] was created by Public Law 17-43, the law

that created COTA," Merfalen said, adding that many consider Camacho as the vision behind the COTA and its "founder."

Merfalen said Camacho was not just the leader of COTA, but the agency is his "project, effort, and dream."

COTA is currently heading a public transportation service called "Call-A-Ride" in which the public can make arrangements to be transported anywhere on Saipan for a flat fee. Special vehicles for the disabled are also available.

However, an even bigger public transport program is currently being developed, Merfalen said.

The project involves using 10 buses, each with a capacity of 20 to 30, to ply seven routes all across Saipan. The 30-foot buses will be servicing close to 200 bus stops, Merfalen said. He said the project is expected to start in two year's time, if funding will be made available.

Merfalen said the two projects are just some of the visions that Camacho had for the CNMI.

EIS

From Page 1

Work for the CJMT DEIS Consultant."

However, the identity of the winning bidder remains under wraps, until the consultant accepts the government's offer. The administration appealed

for patience as "the process is lengthy, yet necessary."

The government last month started soliciting request for proposals for a third-party contractor or consultant, and also released the scope of work for the potential consultant who will have advisory functions.

The government said it is seeking "consultant services to ensure

that the Office of Governor thoroughly understands the DEIS, its potential positive and negative impacts, and all substantive options, including legal remedies if agreements and other mitigation measures with the military are unable to be reached."

The consultant is also expected to ensure and enable the Office of the Governor "to make

informed decisions on behalf of the CNMI." The consultant is also expected to provide a "reasonable analysis" of the draft EIS and provide counsel and recommendations.

The Inos administration was recently provided with a grant of \$250,000 to hire technical experts that will review and evaluate the draft EIS.

TDHC

From Page 1

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing filed in court on Thursday a notice of "inextricably-intertwined evidence."

In the notice, Lorfing said the U.S. government intends to offer evidence of HKE's conduct regarding acts intrinsic to, or intertwined with, the charged conduct in the second superseding indictment.

Lorfing said what they intend to offer, among other evidence at trial, a correspondence with FinCen in 2000 wherein FinCEN definitely stated that the Bank Secrecy Act applies to Tinian Dynasty.

The prosecutor said they are going to offer as evidence representations to Bank of Guam of compliance with CTR and circulation of anti-money laundering policies in 2004 and 2008.

Last week, FinCEN assessed a \$75-million civil penalty against HKE for "willful and egregious" violations of the Bank Secrecy Act, or BSA.

FinCEN Director Jennifer

Shasky Calvery determined, among other things, that Tinian Dynasty failed to file thousands of CTRs and failed to develop and implement an anti-money laundering program to ensure ongoing compliance with the BSA.

Lorfing said they also intend to present evidence of failure to pay wages to Tinian Dynasty employees during the time period of the charged conduct.

He said other evidence to be offered is the outstanding tax debt to the CNMI government.

In March 2014, the CNMI Department of Finance released the tax lien on Tinian Dynasty over its failure to pay \$41.7 million in various taxes.

Finance, through collection and remittance branch manager Richard Santos, filed in federal court certificates of release of CNMI tax liens that were separately issued to HKE.

Santos certified that HKE has satisfied the requirements of the Revenue and Tax Regulations for the taxes and "for all statutory additions, penalties, or both."

In Finance's five notices of tax liens, the government disclosed that the company failed

to pay its Business Gross Revenue Tax, monthly hotel occupancy tax return, bar tax return, and employer's quarterly withholding tax return from 1998 to 2011 tax period.

The tax liens are in the amount of \$3,115,870.08; \$335,351; \$4,742,815.01; \$2,425,233.25; and \$31,083,833.30, for a total of \$41,703,102.64.

In 2012, it was reported that Finance and Tinian Dynasty were already wrapping up their negotiations to settle Tinian Dynasty's over \$30-million tax debt. The settlement amount was not publicly disclosed.

Lorfing did not elaborate the issues they are planning to offer as evidence during the trial.

Lorfing, however, stated that they will offer direct evidence that is intrinsic to the charged conduct; is integral to defendant's failure-to-file scheme; or to assist the U.S. government in offering a coherent and comprehensive story that will assist the jury in understanding the charged conduct.

Meanwhile, according to the minutes of Thursday's hearing, Manglona agreed to continue the jury trial to June 30.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for HKE, suggested the trial be set on June 30 with jury selection and the trial to start right after, instead of continuing with jury selection tomorrow, and taking a break until the end of June or early July.

Lorfing did not object.

At the hearing, Manglona stated that given the court's prior ruling denying a motion to dismiss for lack of jurisdiction, the court was denying HKE's motion to suppress evidence.

Manglona also, among other issues, denied HKE's motion to dismiss 156 counts in the second superseding indictment. She stated she would issue a separate written decision.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against HKE.

The charges are one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment also has a notice of forfeiture.

FLETCHER

From Page 1

manager for oil positions are vacant despite recent national and internal recruitment efforts. The executive director position will soon join these long unfilled positions.

In a letter last Tuesday, EPA required CUC and the board to submit within 30 days a detailed status report on its plan to solicit and fill—both on a temporary and permanent basis—these positions with managers meeting the specified qualifications.

These are positions mandated by court stipulated orders.

But Fletcher says they have already been updating EPA on these positions through reports and the required stipulated order quarterly progress reports.

"I think this was sent because the executive director position is transiting, and the other [positions] aren't filled. So it's EPA saying" they are concerned, he said.

EPA has also asked for "a detailed explanation and rationale as to why CUC has been unable to fill these critical positions" in their letter last week.

The deputy director position has been vacant since July 15, 2013, when Fletcher was promoted to executive director. The division manager for drinking water and wastewater position has been vacant since September 2014, and the technical manager for oil has been vacant since January 2015.

All these positions were or are required to be filled within 150 days.

Fletcher said Friday they are working with human resource manager Frankie Cepeda on the data to show EPA what they have done in the past to fill these positions.

"We've been recruiting for all these positions right along. So we've had history. ... We've just not been successful in hiring someone," he said.

For the deputy director position, Fletcher said they have had interviews two separate times, and held three separate recruitment searches. "We get up to where we get someone to come out and visit, or to a contract stage and then for whatever reason they recede," he said.

He said the last interviews for deputy director were at the end of 2014. Recruitment started up again this year, he said.

"We were down to the 11th hour in December. We thought

we had a viable candidate but then we weren't successful," he said.

The applicant pools for these positions usually come from the U.S. mainland, Fletcher said.

He said CUC has to work within its budgets and within an established salary administration. "Could that limit our potential candidate pool because of the offered salary range? You bet it can. Positions here in the CNMI are typically lower than what you are going to find in the mainland. A utility of this size and complexity on the mainland, all your positions would be in a much different [salary] bracket—and I don't mean down," he said.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune's* question about what could make it a tough "sell" for these applicants to work here, Fletcher said he could not speak for applicants but could only speculate.

He said living conditions, stability, and the "challenge" here could be what applicants look for.

In terms of livability, he said Saipan has "got it covered."

But "financially, we're tenuous right now," he said. "There's no doubt about it. We're in straits. And that could be a disincentive. But we don't know that until we get that new applicant," he said.

Qualifications

In their letter, EPA stressed that CUC look at candidates that meet stipulated order required qualifications.

"These qualifications are requirements, not guidelines," EPA Water Section 1 manager Ken Greenberg emphasized.

He also said it was their understanding that the CUC board may be contemplating temporarily filling the executive director position with an individual who does not meet the required qualifications.

While Greenberg did not name this individual, it was earlier reported that this was IT&E engineering manager Velma Palacios, who was reportedly a previous candidate for the job.

However, CUC board chair Adelina Roberto called this "very incorrect."

"That was never considered," she said. "We had it on the record that there was no consideration ever been done for anything that is a stipulated order position. No local. Unless they passed with EPA, it has not been considered," she said.

Learn more about NOAA ship expedition

Interested in our local waters' biological and physical resources? Come interact with NOAA scientists as they are about to conduct targeted research in the Mariana Islands Archipelago. Several of the scientists will give an orientation on their planned efforts. Presentations will start at 5:30pm today.

Dr. Erin Oleson will present on cetacean observations obtained during the recent NOAA *Oscar Elton Sette* cruise to the CNMI Northern Islands. Included will be early findings concerning presence and abundance of Humpback Whale and other marine

mammal populations within our local waters.

Dr. Donald Kobayashi will present on his extensive research involving fisheries oceanography in the central and western Pacific, as well as his team's research plans for the upcoming NOAA *Oscar Elton Sette* M.I. Archipelago cruise. This expedition will start on June 11 this year.

John Denton will talk about the mid-water trawling sampling method planned during this fisheries oceanography cruise. Included will be projections concerning what information will be gathered from this sampling technique

and how it is hoped this could be used to enhance fisheries management regimes.

Eric Mooney will talk about the trap sampling particularly targeting Kona crab, including the variety of fish and invertebrates that may be harvested using this method.

Come and participate in these talks, co-hosted by the CNMI's Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management (www.apaseem.org) at the American Memorial Park auditorium. Questions from audience participants are greatly encouraged. (APASEEM)

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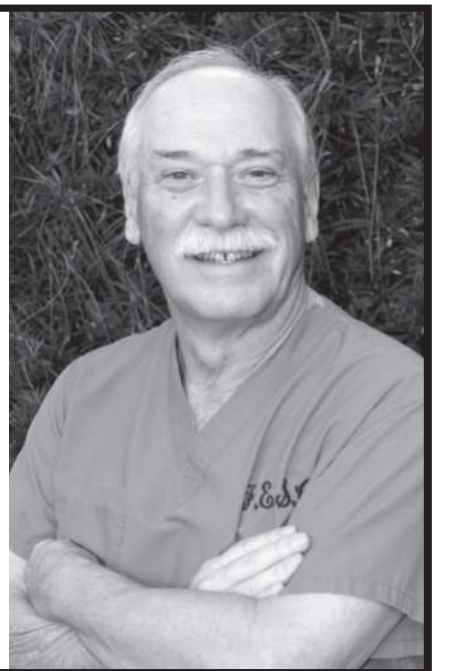
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Kia Rio LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$269.22 or \$124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$16,153.20.
Kia Forte LX retail price \$17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$285.06 or \$131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,103.60.
Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.
Kia Sportage LX retail price \$22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$356.34 or \$164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.

USS *Milius* donates supplies to Guma Esperansa

Members of the crew for USS *Milius* offloaded boxes of supplies on Friday for donation to a local charity, soon after docking at the Port of Saipan on Thursday for a rest-and-recreation port call.

The donation was facilitated by the Saipan Chamber of

Commerce.

Lauri Ogomoro and Rose Masayos, from the local women's shelter Guma Esperansa, were on hand to accept the donations of clothing and personal items. The vessel had stores of items explicitly for donation

to the communities at various stops in their long journey.

The USS *Milius* arrived on Saipan on June 4. At the on-board meeting, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Jill Arenovski offered to set up any community relations event

for the vessel's crew while they are in port. Lt. Jonathan Litzenberger requested some sporting activities and also offered some supplies for donation.

Ogomoro was delighted to accept the donations for the women's shelter and will share with the Salvation Army and the Sisters at Maturana (who care for the elderly and bedrid-

den nuns).

"The items will be put to good use," said Ogomoro.

Arenovski said the chamber is "happy to facilitate this donation which will benefit the residents of our island who are in most need."

The vessel (DDG-69) is under the command of Capt. Michael Rak and was last on Saipan in

July 2000. The 300-plus personnel will be enjoying the beauty and warmth of Saipan throughout the weekend. Other COMREL arranged by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce included a welcome reception on Friday evening at Club C and a soccer game on Sunday morning at the Oleai Sports Complex field. (SCC)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce receive a donation of clothing and personal items from the USS *Milius* to the local women's shelter and other charities.



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning May 04, 2015 through July 17, 2015; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at <http://chcc.gov.mp>.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2015.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Esther L. Muña
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-15

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested plant nurseries, for the supply, service and maintenance of Interior (indoor) Plants at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing interior plants for a period of two (2) years as detailed in the Scope of Work. The proposal package which includes the scope of work and evaluation factors will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on **June 8, 2015**. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Interior Plant Service and Maintenance"**. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, June 24, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Questions pertaining to this RFP must be in writing and address to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority either by facsimile at 234-5962 or email: cpa.mqlizama@pticom.com. no later than June 19, 2015. Response will be issued by formal written addenda and afforded to all proposers who have picked up the proposal package.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA

Further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibilities in any act of omission on the part of offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of offeror's preparation of the proposal or supply under the contract.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CPA TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-15

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting sealed proposals subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (RFP), and other contract provisions, for proposals from interested vendors for the upgrade of CPA's telephone system. The successful proposer shall perform the upgrade of CPA Telephone System with modifications for allowable future upgrades as the need arise at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50, Procurement Rules and Regulations of Title 40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC). Title 40, including Chapter 40-50225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The Proposal Package which includes the Scope of Work will be available on Friday, June 5, 2015 and may be obtained at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm except CNMI Holidays.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this RFP, the Telephone System Upgrade and its specifications shall be submitted in writing to MaryAnn Q. Lizama/Executive Director and faxed to 670-234-5962 or emailed to cpa.mqlizama@pticom.com with copy to JoyAnn Deleon Guerrero at email joydga@cpa.gov.mp no later than Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 22, 2015, at the CPA Airport Conference Room at the Saipan International Airport. Attendance at this conference is mandatory to ensure the proposers' understanding of the project requirements. Proposals submitted by proposers who are not in attendance at this mandatory conference will be rejected.

Sealed proposals must be marked "CPA TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE, CPA-RFP-003-15" and shall be delivered to the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, **WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015**.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a U.S. Treasury approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Certified or cashier's checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: May 28, 2015



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) VACANT PROPERTIES - PORT OF SAIPAN CPA-RFP-002-15

APRIL 16, 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY IS ACCEPTING SEALED PROPOSALS, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (THE "RFP") AND OTHER CONTRACT PROVISIONS, FOR AWARDED A LEASE CONTRACT FOR ONE, TWO AND/OR THREE REAL PROPERTY LEASES ON AUTHORITY PROPERTY ON SAIPAN, IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. THE AUTHORITY HAS THREE (3) VACANT PROPERTY LOTS AVAILABLE FOR LEASE IN AN AREA ZONED FOR COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL.

THIS RFP IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 40-50, PROCUREMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OF TITLE 40 OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ADMINISTRATIVE CODE (THE "NMIAC"). TITLE 40, INCLUDING CHAPTER 40-50-225, **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**, IS APPLICABLE TO THE PROCESS FOLLOWED BY THE RFP.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROPERTY DETAILS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL TERMINAL AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2015, BETWEEN 7:30 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.

PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE AUTHORITY AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR – ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NO LATER THAN 4:30 PM ON **JUNE 8TH, 2015**.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ By: MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Level playing field for Medicare, Medicaid sought for territories

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A comprehensive bill that would eliminate or mitigate nearly all of the disparities that the territories, including the CNMI, face under the Medicaid and Medicare programs was introduced in Congress last week.

The 26-page H.R. 2635, titled "Improving the Treatment of the U.S. Territories Under Federal Health Programs Act of 2015," addresses what the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. had been seeking support for.

Resident Commissioner Pedro Pierluisi (D-PR) introduced the bill. This amends titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act "to make improvements to the treatment of the U.S. territories under the Medicare and Medicaid programs."

The bill would create new federal rules governing Medicaid in the territories. Medicaid, the health program for low-income individuals, is funded in part by the federal government and in part by the state or territory government.

In the U.S. mainland, there is no limit on the amount of funding the federal government will provide for Medicaid as long as the state provides its share of matching funds. The federal contribution—known as Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage—can range from

50 percent for the wealthiest states to 83 percent for the poorest states. In contrast, the amount of funding that the federal government provides to support the Medicaid program in each territory is capped.

Currently, Medicaid gives a little over \$6 million each year to the CNMI, which is not enough for the over 15,000 Medicaid-eligible residents of the islands. The current FMAP is 55 percent, largely due to the Affordable Care Act.

In 2010, Congress enacted the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*. The bill provided \$7.3 billion in additional Medicaid funding, with the CNMI receiving only \$109 million in ACA funds for the Medicaid program in the Commonwealth.

As of April 30, 2015, CHCC has already received a total of \$46.1 million of that amount, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) chief of staff Bob Schwalbach.

The current rate of use of these ACA funds is about \$1 million per month until fully expended at the end of fiscal year 2019. These funds were made available starting in July 2011 when CHCC became the main beneficiary with its creation in October 2011. There is only \$63 million left in ACA funds.

If this funding is not replenished, the territories will go back to receiving Medicaid

funds under the old formula. After 2019, the FMAP will return to 50 percent.

Starting in fiscal year 2017, the bill would provide the territories with state-like treatment within well-defined parameters. Specifically, each territory's Medicaid program could cover individuals—whether they are children, pregnant women, disabled or elderly individuals, parents, or adults without children—whose family income is equal to or less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, with the federal government providing state-like funding for that purpose.

As long as a territory government covers individuals whose household income is within these limits, the federal government would fund the territory's Medicaid program as if it were a state Medicaid program. That means that the annual funding cap would be eliminated. Each territory would receive an FMAP based on its per capita income. However, the limiting principle is that if a territory wants to cover individuals earning above 100 percent of the federal poverty level, it will generally be required to use territory dollars, not federal dollars.

"The congressional act that places a cap on Medicaid funding and places a flat FMAP for the territories needs

to be amended and treat territorial residents the same as residents in the U.S. states," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said.

"The regulations imposed on our hospital are tough considering there is inconsistency in the law when it comes to territorial hospitals. ... On top of that, we are the sole hospital in the CNMI and a rural hospital as well," she added.

She also said that unlike the U.S. mainland, territories have a cap. "Because 55 percent is fed-

eral, local is 45 percent. Basically we can't touch all the funding we receive, because in reality is you have to match the cap."

Sablan announced in his weekly e-newsletter that the local Medicaid match drops to about 20 percent, compared to 45 percent now. And insular area hospitals could be compensated for the disproportionate share of uninsured and Medicaid patients served, as are hospitals in the States.

"The local match for Medicare drug benefits would be

waived and a tax paid to the U.S. Treasury by local insurers, as part of the Affordable Care Act, would go to insular governments instead. I worked with Pierluisi on details of the bill and am an original co-sponsor," Sablan said.

The bill is co-sponsored by territorial delegates Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam), Sablan, and Stacey Plaskett (D-VI). It was jointly referred to the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means committees.

Liberation booth applications ready for pick up

Dreaming about running a booth, building a float, or joining the historic 70th Liberation Day parade this year? Vendors and parade participants may now pick up their application packets at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Led by Skywalker Communications Group, an international public relations firm based in Hong Kong, this year's celebration will feature international-grade booths for vendors, carnival rides, live entertainment, a grand fireworks show, and a local and international multimedia campaign that will help draw more guests on a daily basis.

Only 48 booths are available for vendors, and signup is on a first-come, first-served basis, so the 2015 Liberation Committee is urging all interested vendors

to sign up as soon as possible.

The prices for booth rentals are \$2,000 for food and beverage (non-alcoholic); \$1,500 for carnival booth games; \$1,500 for retail and souvenirs; \$1,200 for arts and crafts; and \$150 for July 4 roving street vendors.

The booths open on June 27 and close on Aug. 16, 2015, giving vendors ample time to sell their products or services.

The prizes for competing parade floats are \$4,000 for first place; \$3,000 for second; \$2,000 for third; and \$1,000 for fourth, the largest it has been in recent years.

The theme for this year is "Peace in Diversity."

"In reflection of this theme, we encourage parade competitors and participants to

creatively show how diverse and harmonious our community is," said 2015 Liberation Day Committee member Rose Ada Hocog.

"We are excited to see what our vendors and parade participants can come up with to help make this year's historic celebration memorable for our residents and our guests," she said.

The 2015 Liberation Day Carnival grounds will open on June 27 and will run 6pm-10pm Mondays to Thursdays, 6pm-11pm on Fridays, 10am to 11pm on Saturdays and 10am to 10pm on Sundays.

For more information, call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 or the Skywalker Office at 234-7942 or email ldc-nmi@gmail.com. (PR)

Step-By-Step Workshop to Help You Find Thousands of \$\$\$ for College (Fall 2015 Semester)!

**Saturday,
June 13, 2015**

NMC (Saipan, Tinian, & Rota)

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by any time between 9:00am and 3:00pm. Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Fall 2015 Semester (a savings of up to \$75!).

Attend Northern Marianas College's FREE Cash for College Workshop and receive personal assistance in completing forms for:

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- SHEFA, Tinian & Rota Municipal Scholarship
- CNMI Scholarship
- TEACH Grant
- Other Financial Aid

Although not required for entry to the workshop, please bring the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript (3 Official Copies)
3. Tax Forms: Your or your parents' signed 2014 1040 form (2014 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2013 and 2014 (for example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)



CASH for COLLEGE

San Nicolas completes training at NAS Pensacola

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Rota native Lee Ted R. San Nicolas completed his training at Pensacola's Naval Air Station in Warrington, Florida, last month. Better known as NAS Pensacola, the air station is considered by many as the "cradle of naval aviation" in the United States.

San Nicolas was sent to NAS Pensacola after completing his Air Force training in Alabama as a staff sergeant, graduating as a commissioned officer of the United States Air Force as a 2nd lieutenant last year. His training

heavily focused on military aircraft flying courses, something he said "is the hardest program I have ever been a part of."

The application process to attend the training school was an arduous three-month endeavor, according to San Nicolas.

"Once you determine where you would like to begin, you go through a system of background, physical, educational, medical, and security checks to determine if you are eligible for Officer Training School. The process is long, tedious, and very selective, different than the enlisted route," he said.

After years of training, San

Nicolas will now be working as a combat systems officer, with expertise in the field of navigation, weapons systems employment, and electronic warfare operations.

Before venturing off to the mainland, San Nicholas received his early childhood education at Eskuelan San Fransisco De Borja and Grace Christian Academy on Rota, graduating with numerous accolades.

In 2003, he moved to Guam and attended Father Duenas Memorial High School, living with his Uncle Francisco and Auntie Ofelia Atalig. In the infancy of his sophomore year, San Nicolas matriculated at Sunset High School in Beaverton, Oregon and graduated. San Nicolas also holds a bachelor's degree in Criminology from Portland State University.

His love for service was solidified when he volunteered and became a corrections tech officer at Washington Community Corrections.

"My position allowed me to assist and help probation and parole officers with their many cases which included paperwork, contacting clients, or going to court. Upon accumulating enough experience, I was fortunate enough to be given the privilege of supervising a small group of 25 clients. I left the position once I found out I



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota native Lee Ted Rase San Nicolas.

has been accepted into the Air Force's Officer Training School in September," he said.

With his completion of pilot training, San Nicolas earned his "Wings and Aircraft" and joined the Air Force's elite group of combat systems officers, comprising less than 1,200 individuals. He will now be flying

an RC-135 aircraft at Air Force Base in Nebraska.

San Nicholas said he discovered more about himself through his training and studies.

"Integrity is integral and crucial if you want to be successful. Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. If you stand by this, you will suc-

ceed," he explained. "I have grown so much both professionally and personally during my time in Pensacola. I have learned that you cannot take criticism personally if you want to move forward. Take criticism as a learning point and do better next time."

He credits his success to his parents, Timothy San Nicolas and Adelia R. San Nicolas.

"Despite growing up on a small island, you can accomplish bigger and greater things if you put your mind into it with dedication and hard work," he added.

CDAC records to be destroyed

The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services at the Children's Developmental Assistance Center, or CDAC, from 2007 to 2009 that your child's personal records are no longer needed by the program and therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program will maintain indefinitely a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records other than the permanent information listed above will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any information, call Robin Palacios, interim coordinator, Early Intervention Program at CDAC at 664-4841. (CDAC)

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122 THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 5222 SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950 TEL: (670) 234-6547 FAX: (670) 234-9537	
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff	
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	
BENEDICTA CRUZ TENORIO,] Plaintiff,]] -v-]] SCHOLASTICA B. L. RIVERA] and RAMON FUJHIRA BARCINAS,] aka RAMON B. DELA CRUZ,]] Defendants.]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0071
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION	
TO DEFENDANT SCHOLASTICA B. L. RIVERA: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated May 27, 2015 by the order of the Court.	
/s/ Clerk of Court	



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

CUC customers who receive water from the Puerto Rico tank will experience limited service from 6am – 10am Monday, June 8 – Friday, June 12 while crews fill the new one million-gallon welded steel tank.

The areas affected are:

Lower Navy Hill	Lower Miha
Hotel Street	South Garapan
Sadog Tasi	

CUC encourages all customers in the affected communities to conserve water and those that have water tanks and cisterns to take steps to make sure that their on-site equipment is fully functional and sanitary.



(1) LIFEGUARD

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Must be able to swim and have an outgoing personality and the ability to motivate with enthusiasm. Proposed ideas or find ways to improve services, systems and/or procedures. Direct and lead activities for guests of all ages. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

(1) MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Requires one or two years of satisfactory performance as a Maintenance Coordinator; or any combination of related education and experience in the assigned area; or up to four (4) years of college courses in civil engineering, construction management or related field. Ability to interpret and administer contracts for construction, and/or operational services. Must be able to work flexible hours including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than June 12, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with
Disabilities are urged to apply.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager

College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Associate Editor

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Coordinator

Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Graphic Designer (3)

Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Managing Editor

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course. At least 8 years progressive journalism and newspaper management experience with a strong story evaluation and production background. Must have rigorous proofreading skills and able to meet tight deadlines. Knows how to use InDesign or Quark Express and must be adept in the various technical aspects of newspaper publishing.

Reporter (2)

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation

Sports Reporter

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English or any related course; At least 2 years experience in sports writing. Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax. Must be able to write stories based on score sheets. Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment. Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player. Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on a short notice. Must be computer literate and have photography skills. Must have own reliable transportation.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to lt_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Thank you

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan would like to thank the amazing group of Animal Balance, Humane Society International and Humane Society United States. We would also like to thank our amazing volunteers and staff for their hard work and dedication to help Saipan's animals through the Spay/Neuter/Zeuter Clinic.

Isa Blas, Pat Aquino, Stephanie Trinidad, Lisa Windham, Jason Hudy, Ali McCurdy, Amber Alberts, Miyuki Hill, Elizabeth Pliscou, Shelly Scott, Jordina Walker, Antonio Cabrera, Yumiko Brundidge, Arthur Jebehn, Mayuki Policare, Mayumi Tanaka, Noriko Taira, Lodel Callejo, John Fraser, Timothy Dow, Melissa Schwartz, Kimberly Bunts Anderson, Chenoa Gale Bunts, Annie Brazel, Denisee Walters, Mary Grace Maglalang, Ben Salas, Janice Stanley, Jonavelle Cuervo, Margaret Rose, Lorie Hutchinson, April Liske-Clark, Richard Santos, Brian Blas and Lee Mark Deleon Guererro. Apologies if I missed some people, but thank you so much.

We would also like to thank our major sponsor, **Best Sunshine International Ltd.** and various businesses, government agencies and individuals for their generous monetary and in kind donations for this worthy cause. Without them, this also wouldn't have been possible:

Hertz Rent a Car, LSG Catering, Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, HANMI, Bank of Saipan, Bridge Capital, IT&E, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Grandvrio Resort, Kanoa Resort, Marianas Resort and Spa, McDonalds Restaurant, Coca-Cola Company, PHI Pharmacy, Tan Siu Foundation, Cosmos, Sorensen Media, Micronesian Brokers, Modern Stationary, JCT Enterprises, Gold's Gym, Pacific Trading Company, Hardt Eye Clinic, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, Herman's Modern Bakery, Saipan Shipping Company, Saipan Ice & Water, Marianas Variety, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, Moylan's Insurance, Pacific Development Inc., Saipan Tribune, Tropical Laundry, CHCC, DCCA, Karidat, KSPN, S.T.A.R. Water, J.E.T. Holding Company, Seventh-Day Adventist Clinic, Lower Base Transfer Station, Detry Corporation, G4S Security Systems, Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc., All Parts Inc., Joeten Superstore, YCO Do It Best, Chong International Corporation, Marpac, Get Covered, Lucy Sablan, Alex Aquininog, Erick Van Der Maas, Frances P. Arriola, Wendi Herring, Lydia Parks, Mathias Chargualaf, Raquel Manalo, Larissa Flores, Teri Camacho, Keisha Nepaial, Marja Oni, Mrs. Imai, Catherine Tenorio, Senator Sixto Igisomar, Congressman George N. Camacho and Congressman Edwin K. Propst.

Our office would also like to thank everyone that brought their pets in to Saipan's first ever Spay/Neuter/Zeuter Clinic and for their help and donations as well.

*Thank you everyone for caring. Together we can all make
Saipan a better place for both humans and animals.*



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Leniency for Snowden?

When he announced Tuesday that he would sign a bill ending the National Security Agency's bulk collection of Americans' telephone records and making other reforms in surveillance laws, President Barack Obama praised Congress—and himself.

"For the past 18 months, I have called for reforms that better safeguard the privacy and civil liberties of the American people while ensuring our national security officials retain tools important to keeping Americans safe," Obama said. "That is why, today, I welcome the Senate's passage of the USA Freedom Act."

Unacknowledged by the president was the man who can fairly be called the ultimate author of this legislation: former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, who has been charged with violating the Espionage Act and is now living in exile in Russia.

Without Snowden's unauthorized disclosures two years ago, neither the public nor many members of Congress would have known that the government, acting under a strained interpretation of the Patriot Act, was vacuuming up and storing millions of Americans' phone records. That program will end under the bill signed by Obama.

That legislation also imposes a measure of transparency on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which secretly ratified the government's implausible legal justification for the dragnet. (Last month, that rationale was rejected by a federal appeals court in New York.) From now on, opinions of the surveillance court will be declassified "to the greatest extent practicable."

If the American people have Snowden to thank for these reforms—and they do—is it fair to prosecute him for violating laws against the release of classified information? More than 167,000 Americans say no and have signed a petition to the White House demanding that Obama grant him a "full, free, and absolute pardon."

Yet there are serious arguments against a pardon. One is that, in a society of laws, someone who engages in civil disobedience in a higher cause should be prepared to accept the consequences.

A stronger objection, in our view, is that Snowden didn't limit his disclosures to information about violations of Americans' privacy. He divulged other sensitive information about traditional foreign intelligence activities, including a document showing that the NSA had intercepted the communications of then-Russian President Dmitry Medvedev during a Group of 20 summit in London in 2009.

A pardon for Snowden now would be premature. But if he were to return to this country to face the charges against him, the fact that he revealed the existence of a program that has now been repudiated by all three branches of government would constitute a strong argument for leniency. Snowden should come home and make that case.

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The Pentagon mistakenly sent live anthrax to 9 labs...



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...all 51 labs which were sent the live anthrax...



Bianwen, Farrell and Tinian

The name *Kamehameha* is well known in Hawaii, officially remembered this week for leading the *alii aimuko* rule the islands for three centuries bearing the name, until *Kalaka'ua* replaced them. U.S. Marines put an end to the royalty as the U.S. Navy determined that Pearl Harbor would make for an excellent coaling station, and imperial America salivated for real estate under Pacific coconuts and points beyond.

Among the Austronesians in Palau to the Micronesians across the equator north and the Polynesians-Melanesians south, to Chile's Easter Island, stratified society prevailed. Slaves and servants were at the bottom, an educated force was in the middle, and a royal family at the head; the upper class *Chamorro* were over the *Matao* and the *Atcha'ot* of the middle, and the lower *matachang* class served the Marianas. U.S. republican and democratic ways were historically not friendly to royal bloodlines, thus the kneejerk American response to ending Liliuokalani's rule in Hawaii.

On the mainland by Pacific west, *Zhongwen* dynasties lasted for three millennia, terminating with the Qing that emerged from the Manchus but confronted by the democratic impulse of the 20th century, eventually ending the dynastic rule of those who thought of themselves as mandated by heaven.

Blood identity was not strict since DNA tests were not yet in place. A childless, or male-deficient, ruling family sometimes adopted one from outside the direct bloodline to wield the royal scepter, for the continuity of the clan name was more important than bloodline purity and integrity even if external blood line managed to seep into the flow.

But early in the development of the Chinese literary tradition, combined text for story telling and pictorial representation in a vernacular style rather than the royal Mandarin of the court came in vogue. The Dunhuang *bianwen* manuscript was an early example of this vernacular tradition though the form died out by the Song Dynasty. The form translated and transmitted Buddhist doctrines from revered Sanskrit Sutras to popular literature.

Bianwen with the pictorial representation of the *bianxiang* popularized beliefs and doctrine as the form related to oral and visual public performances. The stories were preserved in written form, and the ways in which they were told influenced secular storytelling for a long time.

This is a long intro to Don Farrell's record (check out Micronesian Productions) on historiography. We used his tome on NMI History in our PSS Social Studies class circa 2003-2008 and found it to be full, more than enough for a two-semester sitting. Farrell went on to revise the authoritative volume with Part I from Ancient Times through the Spanish Era, and Part II to start with the journey of the NMI since the 20th Century to the present.

Meanwhile, we were feted with a brief *History of Tinian* when we

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

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attended a Tinian symposium Farrell organized in 2010, graced by various scholars and other academicians.

Farrell's books are meant to instruct, not to decorate shelves in inertia, and since most of our learning is 80 percent by sight, he is pedagogically astute to liberally sprinkle lots of pictorial representations and photos in his text, reminiscent of China's transformative texts of the *bianwen* style.

The *Tinian, A Brief History*, 2012 edition, is an example of photos complementing text, from the cover of latte stones to the detailed island map at the back, and the subject that covers the history of Japanese occupation of the island when sugar temporarily deposed German technology that included the wrenching clash of the *Banzai* warriors opposing invading grunts in 1944. The pictures are graphically instructive along with the texts translated into Nihon's *kanji* script.

In literary traditions, texts are abstracted into words and numbers utilized by the left side of the brain, but graphic form dominates the right side. A simplistic division of cerebral savvy distinguishes between the analytic and synthesizing functions of the brain, and academe often has bias for words over the practical power of graphics.

Farrell's *Tinian* enlarges our familiarity of the island more than just the abstract reputation of where Paul Tibbets and his crew on *Enola Gay* picked up the load delivered over Hiroshima. We visited with the historian one Monday in 2010 in his "two dug hole" on the ground by Able Park on the north end of the island. The prolific writer, in his elements, was a bearded presence.

We actually might have crossed paths in Guam when I served the Community United Methodist Church where the late Marcia Hartsock of the 17th Legislature and Jose Dizon, Carl Gutierrez first running mate for the Governor's Office, were members. Don was aide to Gutierrez 1982-86, and my sojourn in Guam was 1983-84. We did not cross paths then, but now we have through his books on the Marianas.

Bianwen, the text and pictorial representation of China was what got us to this reflection on Farrell and his book, *Tinian*. Pick up Farrell's brief histories of *Saipan*, *Guam*, and *Rota*, and one meets a learned but approachable *matao* on his islands!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Unethical: Then and now

In an ethics code advisory opinion last week, the Office of the Public Auditor said that joining a trip to Singapore to explore integrated resorts, among other things, “would constitute clear and unambiguous violation of the Ethics Act by any member of the Legislature that accepted the invitation as proffered” and will expose them to “potential criminal and civil liability.”

Since the release of OPA’s advisory opinion, one other question that community members would like to ask OPA and the Office of the Attorney General is whether previous trips that the CNMI’s current and former elected officials actually participated in and paid for by casino- and utility-related firms also constitute a violation of the CNMI Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 and what the consequences would be.

Kudos to the individual or individuals who recently sought OPA’s opinion on the invitation extended to lawmakers to go to Singapore.

This comes at a time when Best Sunshine International Ltd. is working on its promised \$7 billion exclusive integrated casino resort on Saipan, courtesy of a 2014 casino bill that was introduced, passed, and signed into law without public hearings and legislative committee report.

Kudos to OPA, too, for a prompt response to a June 2 request for an advisory opinion on the Singapore trip invitation.

Had a similar request for an OPA advisory opinion been sought in 2013 and 2014, it would have put to rest lingering questions about CNMI elected officials’ previous casino fact-finding trips to Hong Kong/Macau and Singapore ahead of House vice speaker Ralph Demapan’s pre-filing of a bill allowing an exclusive casino license on Saipan.

Or perhaps there won’t be any Saipan casino to talk about today. But then again, that could also mean continued pension cuts for retirees, among other things.

In interviews with elected officials during the 18th Legislature—including Demapan, then Senate vice president and now president Victor Hocog and then senator and now Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres—they said their off-island trips were paid for by a private business.

It took them four months since a December 2013 trip, for ex-

ample, to finally identify the business that invited, hosted and paid for their trip, which was Esteem Capital. The trips were made barely months after an abrupt end to an unprecedented impeachment process over corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Esteem Capital had planned to invest close to \$3 billion in the CNMI for an integrated casino resort development at the time.

In one of the transcriptions of those 2014 interviews, Torres was asked by reporters, “Who paid for the trip?” He replied, “The company [Esteem Capital] paid for it and the company paid for fact-finding. It was only in Hong Kong.” In that particular trip, he said he was with Hocog and Sens. Frank Borja and Frank Cruz.

Also around the time, Esteem Capital entered into a partnership with the China-Australia Entrepreneurs Association Inc. and Zelong Group to invest \$5 billion in a casino resort in Australia.

In April 2014, Best Sunshine International Ltd. and Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. submitted an application for an exclusive Saipan casino license. According to elected officials at the time, the two applicants did not include those responsible for sponsoring CNMI officials’ previous Asian fact-finding trips.

That, however, did not ease doubts about the lawmakers’ 2013 and 2014 off-island trips and concerns that the Saipan casino bill that lawmakers hastily passed was tailored for the entities they met with in Hong Kong.

But as far as the CNMI government is concerned, its hiring of casino investigator B2G Global Strategies and gaming consultant The Innovation Group would have uncovered any such questionable links. After all, these two consultants were hired to review and investigate the two casino applications submitted by Best Sunshine and Marianas Stars.

Elected officials’ questionable off-island trips around the time were not only limited to those related to casinos. In December 2013, for example, some lawmakers were also in Hong Kong at the invitation of Blue Ocean Energy Corp., which at the time was planning to invest in a \$100-million, 50-megawatt liquefied natural gas plant project on Saipan.

Now, thankfully, OPA was sought for an advisory opinion on an

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, immigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years.

invitation extended to lawmakers for an off-island trip “to explore integrated resorts, their makeup, operation, and benefit” when Best Sunshine is already developing its integrated resort.

“The fact pattern as presented to OPA involves an invitation by a person either ‘contracted by or funded by’ a large corporate entity that does business in the CNMI in an emerging field that is heavily regulated by both statute and administrative regulation,” OPA said.

OPA pointed out that “the facts presented would constitute clear and unambiguous violation of the Ethics Act by any member of the Legislature that accepted the invitation as proffered.”

It cited CNMI law stating that “a public official shall not solicit or accept anything of value, or the promise of anything of value, from a person regulated by the government entity that the public official serves.”

While its opinion is limited to whether or not the acceptance of such an invitation would violate the Ethics Act, OPA said it must be said that “CNMI law also prohibits offering of such gifts.”

“In conclusion, it is the opinion of OPA that acceptance of the invitation as described would constitute a violation of the Ethics Act and expose any persons so accepting to potential criminal and civil liability,” OPA added.

Whether this would put a halt to CNMI elected officials’ future off-island trips associated with casinos or any planned or existing businesses is anyone’s guess, but anyone could always say it is only OPA’s “advisory” opinion anyway and investor-paid travels by elected officials were done several times before without repercussions, too.

Hillary gets it right on voter registration

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Hillary Clinton’s call for universal automatic voter registration is a major positive development in the voting wars. She puts the national Democratic Party squarely behind Oregon’s recent innovative registration law.

As Bloomberg View’s Cass Sunstein says, Americans don’t need to register with the government to be entitled to other rights; voting shouldn’t be any different.

It’s pretty simple: If we want everyone to participate, then voting should be easy. Voter registration in the U.S. is a real, and unnecessary, hurdle. That’s no coincidence: Registration was originally set up around the turn of the previous century in part by those concerned that the wrong kinds of people (mostly recent immigrants from southern and eastern Europe) would vote.

There are plenty of ideas to make voting easier, but removing registration as a hurdle is the big one, on both a practical and theoretical level.

As a practical matter, political scientists have repeatedly found that making registration easy will increase turnout. Indeed, the evidence when it comes to some voting reforms (early and absentee voting, making Election Day a holiday) is mixed. Some political scientists find “substitution” effects—in many cases, early voting just allows people who would vote anyway to do so at more convenient times, but it doesn’t encourage new voters to participate (for a review of the evidence, see this new paper). But automatic or simpler registration works.

To me, however, the strongest arguments are based on democratic theory. Democracy, a system of government in which people rule themselves, is extremely difficult even with the best intentions. A core problem is that people have different resources—money, of course, but also skills that are politically valuable, time available for political action, and even interest in government. Universal suffrage is a partial remedy, but that only works if voting is easily and equally accessible.

That’s why registration is so corrosive. Even if it’s not much of a barrier, those who are deterred are almost certainly the same people who lose out in a system that cannot (and in my view should not) help but reward those with more resources. Voting itself should be easy for the same reasons, but registration holds a special status as the entryway to politics.

Granted, there is a partisan component to voting as an issue. Democrats favor easier voting because they think it will help them, which is why Republicans oppose it. The evidence is that even com-

pulsory voting wouldn’t make much of a difference.

Is fraud a concern? I don’t think so. Yes, people could find ways to beat an automatic system, but they can find ways to beat the current system, too. Fraud is an unfortunate but unavoidable byproduct. If we want a bigger military, we’re going to get more procurement fraud; if we want to make it easy to vote, some may try to abuse that.

To me, it’s simple. Policies that make it easy to vote are good for democracy; policies that make it hard aren’t. I’ll support anything,

even selective measures, that make it easier to vote. After all, if both parties reduce voting barriers for their supporters, eventually we’ll get to the right place. Universal automatic registration has the virtue of not being selective. It’s the right reform, and kudos to Clinton for moving her once-indifferent party in that direction.

Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg View columnist. Readers may send him email at jbernstein62@bloomberg.net.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How ambiguity serves American military and intelligence desires in the Marianas

Residents of the Mariana Islands continue to be recipients of military information overload. If defense contractor prepared documents released to the public do not relate to live-bombing training desires on Pagan or artillery training wishes on Tinian or hand-grenade training efforts in Yigo, materials may be tied to Air Force live bombing runs on FDM or undersea explosions or active sonar training conducted by the Navy throughout our region.

The results of ongoing military-initiated information overload efforts targeted at Marianas islanders serve many purposes. One purpose is that it generates anxiousness amongst villagers because the majority of our people do not understand technical military and scientific/environmental/statutory-speak nor should it be assumed that they do. Military produced information overload also results in establishing impressions with islanders who respond to these informational “shock and awe” events by feeling powerless, numb, angry, fearful, or helpless. Some may choose to not even think about what the military wants to do because it is too painful or because war profiteering is to be had or both.

All this, I would argue, is done to sustain the conditions that effectively and continually confuse, dissuade, deter, and divide an other-

wise relatively peaceful population, which for the most part simply wants to have the ability to control and shape their own collective destiny, on their own terms, on a tiny non-contiguous landmass of islands named after a European aristocrat. In other words what we are talking about is sustaining an environment throughout our island chain that is ambiguous, and thus advantageous to the military.

The American intelligence community is also deeply involved in the Marianas because it intersects with the military by providing an operationally robust surveillance state throughout the island chain through providing superior information support campaigning vis-a-vis mass media delivery channels that provide cover for ongoing clandestine operations carried out for the purpose of creating an environment that sustains total informational superiority in order to accurately assess real-time environmental conditions and political situational awareness developments in the Marianas.

Sustaining ambiguity to maximize the likelihood that the military attains its desired goals in the Marianas over time is the farthest thing from what this nation is supposed to stand for—that of liberty and justice for all that it is founded and derived from the consent and will of the people. In the case of the Mariana Islands, the military and intelligence communities will continue to utilize techniques, tactics, and methods intended to cast the widest net to influence, control, and shape villager hearts and minds in order to realize desired strategic outcomes—that of fully militarizing our island chain home for the purpose of providing convenient training grounds to sustain and amplify tactical and strategic readiness should hot spots develop throughout the U.S. Pacific Command’s area of responsibility. For Chamorros and Carolinians alike, this proposition is unreasonable, un-American and tyrannical by description because there are other options and areas throughout the Asia Pacific region for the military to train besides our island chain that have not been adequately explored because of perceived inconveniences or perceived cost factors or both.

Rick Perez

Hanover, NH

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

Yesterday's Satellite Image



A tropical upper tropospheric trough running southwestward through the Northern Marianas from 25N160E to 6N137E is triggering widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of Koror within 50 miles of a line from 19N131E to 18N133E northeast of Saipan between 14N and 22N from 145E to 154E and west of Guam between 12N and 15N from 136E to 142E. A trade-wind disturbance centered about 250 miles east-southeast of Guam at 13N149E is producing widely-scattered showers between 12N and 14N from 147E to 150E. Left-over mid and upper-level cloudiness produced by earlier convection is seen near a couple of trade-wind disturbances near Pohnpei. Widely-scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present within 90 miles of a line running from 10N155E to 7N162E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 54
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 94	▼ 68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88	▼ 81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 84	▼ 72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65	▼ 49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86	▼ 64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 93	▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57	▼ 46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87	▼ 76
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76	▼ 69
Osaka	Rain	▲ 77	▼ 69
Paris	Sunny	▲ 72	▼ 53
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 63
Rome	Thundershowers	▲ 85	▼ 67
Salem	Sunny	▲ 91	▼ 54
San Francisco	Fog	▲ 68	▼ 54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 89	▼ 61
Tokyo	Rain	▲ 78	▼ 68
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89	▼ 73



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Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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ARRIVALS

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:15pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:05pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:45pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:45pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:45pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	ROTA TO SAIPAN		
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

Beijing TV airs Saipan Marathon

Beijing Sports Channel has aired a feature on the latest Saipan Marathon and the visitor attractions of the Northern Marianas.

Beijing TV sent two editors and two photographers to Saipan to cover the April 2015 sports event, which attracted approximately 500 runners from China and seven other countries. Show host Yao Feng also ran in and filmed a short segment of the race.

"He related to us that he had fun and it was a great experience to run in the fresh air along

the beautiful beach with all the flame trees blooming," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "He also said he observed that people at the aid stations were very warm and friendly, and they really cheered the runners up. He appreciated the high spirits of the students and little kids running the 10K to challenge themselves and said he would like to return and participate in 2016 Saipan Marathon."

BTV also interviewed several race participants. The media FAM(iliarization) group

also filmed a UTV tour of Mt. Tapochao, Managaha, snorkeling, parasailing, Kanoa Resort beach barbecue, Sea Touch marine animal encounter, trolling, and car rental. The group lodged at Kanoa Resort during their tour.

So far this fiscal year 103,000 visitors from China have arrived in the Northern Marianas, a 29-percent increase compared to the same period last fiscal year. The MVA operates representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. (MVA)



Beijing Television Sports Channel recently aired a feature on the Saipan Marathon filmed on April 25, 2015. From left are MVA Beijing office PR manager Sunday Wang, host/photographer Feng Yao, editor Fu Shen, photographer Guo Wei, and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF SALE

CDA Building



The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby announces the sale of its commercial real estate located in Oleai, Saipan to the highest bidder at the starting minimum bid of \$2M.

The property consists of a three-story commercial building with an approximate gross rentable area of 18,000 square feet (600 sq. ft./per unit), gross building area of 24,888 square feet and a total land area of 2,787 square meters.

Terms and Condition of Sale

A. No Representation or Warranties. Property and its improvements are being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". Prospective Purchaser must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

B. Proposals should include the following:

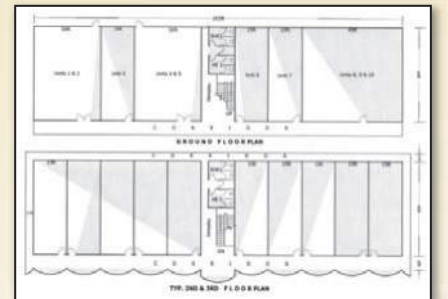
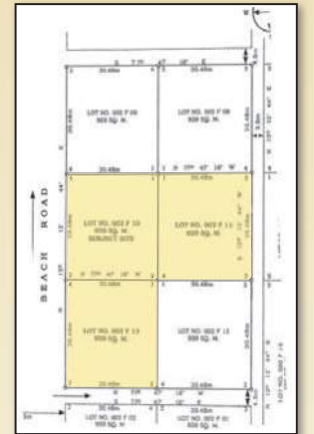
1. Proposed Purchase Price (minimum \$2M);
2. Identify payment option
 - (a) Outright purchase - certified check only
 - (b) Ground Lease Option to Purchase
 - Initial deposit of 10% non-refundable
 - Payment term on the balance should not exceed 6 months and will be charged 5% interest.
 - (c) The name, address and telephone number of the contact person for the Proposed Purchaser.

C. Submission: All Prospective Purchasers are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal. The Property is available for a walk-through inspection by appointment only. Contact Christy Kintol, Office manager at ext. 310 or Oscar Camacho, Loan Manager at ext. 306 to schedule an appointment.

Proposals entitled "OFFER TO PURCHASE - CDA BUILDING" must be received by the CDA no later than 4:00 pm, **Friday, July 31, 2015** and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

The CDA reserves the right: (1) to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason (2) to accept or reject any and all proposals and (3) to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a purchaser.



**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**
through the
Office of the Commissioner of Education

Congratulates The Class of 2015
**Graduating High School Seniors
and Promoting 8th Grade Students**

High School Graduation Ceremonies and Promotion Ceremonies

High School Graduation Ceremonies

School	Date/Time	Venue
Tinian Sr. High School	June 8 @ 5:00 p.m.	Tinian Dynasty
Saipan Southern High School	June 9 @ 4:30 p.m.	School campus
Marianas High School	June 10 @ 4:30 p.m.	School campus
Kagman High School	June 11 @ 3:30 p.m.	American Memorial Park
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Sr. High School	June 12 @ 5:00 p.m.	School Campus

8th Grade Promotion Ceremonies

School	Date/Time	Venue
Tinian Jr. High School	June 8 @ 10:00 a.m.	School campus
Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School	June 12 @ 10 a.m.	School campus
San Antonio Middle School	June 15 @ 9:00 a.m.	School campus
Dandan Middle School	June 15 @ 11:00 a.m.	School campus
Hopwood Jr. High School	June 15 @ 4:00 p.m.	School campus
Tanapag Middle School	June 16 @ 11:00 a.m.	School campus
Chacha Oceanview Middle School	June 16 @ 9:00 a.m.	School campus

STUDENTS FIRST

FAMILIARIZATION TOUR OF MARINA BAY SANDS

‘An integrated resort is more than just a casino’

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jaysan_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marina Bay Sands' 55-story tower over the mall area near the museum. It features more than 2,000 rooms, with a SkyPark and infinity pool, and 300 shopping areas.

JAYSON CAMACHO

SINGAPORE CITY, Singapore—Its casino is just one of the many attractions that Marina Bay Sands has to offer, with a seemingly endless array of luxury shops, entertainment, activities, convention centers, and hotel attractions all located inside the integrated resort itself.

A group primarily made up of students from Saipan that is taking part in a familiarization tour of the integrated resort was amazed at the grandeur of the Marina Bay Sands during their visit last Friday. Saipan exclusive casino licensee Best Sunshine Int., Ltd. is bankrolling the tour and aside from 10 students hand-picked to join the trip, two members of the local media were also invited.

One of the first impressions the group got during their first day of the tour is that Marina Bay Sands' casino is just a small part of what the facility offers its guests.

Nikkael Agustines, a young resident of Saipan and part of the fact-finding tour, said she was astounded by what Marina Bay Sands had to offer.

"I was attracted by the many shops they had here...the employees were so welcoming

when I entered the shops. However it was too pricey, but the shops here are nothing compared back home. The restaurants were great too. We got to choose different cuisines and different menus. The casino wasn't really a main attraction," Agustines said.

Victoria Pangelinan, another Saipan resident, also said she was amazed.

"It is really beautiful here. I am still amazed by the shopping areas, the food, the amusements and the view," she said.

The experience can only be described as phenomenal. Numerous clothing designer shops, restaurants, cafes, a food court, a museum, a skating rink, outside courts lined with different restaurant and fast food shops, two large theatres, conventions and expo centers, and small boat rides were just some of the many attractions of Marina Bay Sands.

Within the Marina Bay Sands' mall alone, tourists could browse through the more than 200 shops that feature famous brands from Europe, the United States, and Asia.

Signs leading to shops, convention centers, attractions, restaurants, smaller family activities, night and day shows, and

bars, among others, were very visible.

Spa treatments could be had either near the entrance to the mall and near the exit. Products such as tea, perfume, jewelry, and household furniture also attracted visitors.

For foodies, seven famous celebrity chef restaurants are

conveniently located at the mall. The different food choices range from local Singaporean dishes to Western-style cuisine.

The casino itself was heavily guarded by strict security systems that require different check-in points for residents and overseas visitors and passports to check in and check out.

Singapore has very strict laws for residents who want to enter the casino and not all residents could gamble there.

By day time, the shopping areas were more crowded compared to lines at the casino entrance. By nighttime, however, Marina Bay Sands' casino bustles with activity as locals

and tourists alike gravitate to its gaming machines, tables, and slots as other hotel attractions shuttered down for the evening.

Marina Bay Sands

Marina Bay Sands is topped by a 340-meter long SkyPark with a capacity for 3,900 people and a 150-meter infinity swimming pool set on top of the world's largest public cantilevered platform, which overhangs the north tower by 67 meters.

Moshe Safdie Architects designed the 20-hectare resort. The architect was Aedas and was responsible for employing all local consultants and for developing, coordinating, and implementing the design. Engineering was provided by Parsons Brinkerhoff.

In addition to the casino, other key components of the plan are three hotel towers with 2,500 rooms and suites, a 200,000-square-foot Art Science Museum, and a convention center with 1.2 million square feet of space capable of accommodating up to 45,000 people.

According to the Marina Bay Sands' website, the first plan for the integrated casino called for 3 to 4 phases. The casino, parts of the conference hall, a segment

Continued on Next Page



JAYSON CAMACHO

The merlion statue across the canal from Marina Bay Sands is one of many special attractions of Singapore.

From Page 14

of the shopping area, 963 hotel rooms, and the event plaza were opened in April 2010. Its grand opening was held in June 2010.

Marina Bay Sands projects to pour in about \$2.7 billion into the economy or 0.8 percent of Singapore's gross domestic product. The hotel provides jobs for up to 10,000 people while related industries provide 20,000 more jobs.

Best Sunshine comparison

Various proposals from Best Sunshine show high similarities to Marina Bay Sands. Marina Bay Sands is a full \$8-billion development project. Best Sunshine's proposed integrated resort and casino is projected at some \$7 billion.

However, Best Sunshine's initial proposal not only involves building attractions such as museums and convention centers, but also a water park within the resort. As of now, Best Sunshine will open a live training facility in Garapan.



JAYSON CAMACHO

Singapore residents enjoy a leisure boat ride within the Marina Bay Sands mall.



JAYSON CAMACHO

The mall is divided into floors, with majority of the food stalls on the first floor at the back side of the mall.



JAYSON CAMACHO

The art science museum's rooftop at the Marina Bay Sands is shaped like a lotus that opens up and closes. Described as "the opening hands of Singapore," it welcomes guests to the hotel.

Best Sunshine is already eyeing three tracts of lands on Saipan where it will build parts of its \$7.1-billion integrated casino resort project, according to Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete Tenorio.

Areas include public lands adjacent to DFS Saipan Limited property in Garapan, public lands previously offered to Sunshine 100 in Marpi, and public lands in Naftan Point.

In April Best Sunshine inked a lease deal with the government, through DPL, for a 19,154-square-meter public land in Garapan. The initial ap-

praised value of the public land was \$901,000, but Best Sunshine will lease it for \$5 million, about five times the land's original appraised value.

The area is formerly known as "Samoan Housing Area."

Best Sunshine expects to invest \$400 million on the 250-room, 5-star hotel that will have a casino, restaurant, nightclubs, and other facilities in the Garapan area.

Like Best Sunshine's proposal, Marina Bay Sands went through several phases of construction due to financial costs back in 2009.



JAYSON CAMACHO

The infinity pool of the Marina Bay Sands SkyPark provides not only one of the best views of Singapore, but is one of the main attractions of the hotel. Tourists swim near the edge to get a spectacular view of the city.

Junior orators prepare for national speech tilt

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen National Junior Speech and Debate champions from nine different schools performed in front of a standing-room-only audience at the American Memorial Park auditorium last Saturday, showcasing their talents in their respective categories before traveling to Dallas, Texas, this week to represent the islands at the national level.

"It is proven that students who participate in public speaking, music, and in drama are more likely to succeed in higher education and beyond," said Hopwood Junior High School coach Victoria Nishida in her opening remarks. "These students are the best of the best."

Nishida noted that this year's team includes a record-breaking number of four sixth-grade students.

The 14 student orators are among more than 70 students from 13 different schools that competed at the recent regional competition in categories ranging from debate to poetry interpretation.

One of the youngest competitors, sixth-grade student Issa Salazar, told *Saipan Tribune* that she is "very excited" for the trip. "I will be doing this competition on and on as the years go by and apply for college in the end."

Fellow orator and declamation representative Melody Woo expressed similar sentiments.

"I am nervous because I know what to expect. At the



THOMAS MANGLONA II
Fourteen National Junior Speech and Debate competitors pose for a photo with their coaches, board member Angela Wheat, and president and chairman Harold Easton.

same time, I feel more confident because I know what to expect," she said. "The coaches prepared me well for this."

Three-time national speech and debate competitor Kelvin Wolf will be representing the islands in the duo category with his partner Jeremiah Fernandez.

"I will go at it harder this year. I will definitely focus a lot more. I am hoping to make

it to the final round," Wolf said. "I decided to join this because I think paving the path for the future is a lot better than sitting and doing nothing."

Each of the 14 students has one main category to compete in, along with two to three other supplemental and consolation categories.

Parent and coach Kristine Wolf said each student has

shown boundless promise to perform well at the national level. "Speech and debate is important because it gives students brighter knowledge about public speaking as well as self-confidence," she added.

At the end of the two-hour showcase, speech and debate board representative and coordinator Mary Angela Wheat expressed her gratitude to the ora-

tors' parents for their support.

President and Pacific Island District chair Harold Easton assured parents that the student competitors would be in the good hands of the school coaches during the trip.

"These young people will represent the island very, very well and represent their schools very, very well," he added.

The national competition is

considered the biggest speech and debate contest in America. Thousand of students from around the globe take part in its various speech and debate categories every year.

The showcase for high school competitors of the National Speech and Debate Association will be held tomorrow at 6pm at Church 360 at the Marianas Business Plaza.

WOMEN IN THE KNOW: Johora Paeda

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Author's note: Saipan Tribune will be featuring leading women in higher education every week in its newest 10-part series, Women In The Know. Last week, we featured Anne Rase Atalig, who graduated from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, with a Doctor of Medicine degree. This week's Woman in the Know is Johora Paeda.

Johora Paeda graduated in May with her Masters in School Counseling from Northern Kentucky University.

"I wanted to become a medical doctor for a long time and had no idea I would become a school counselor. It had not even crossed my mind until I graduated from Northern Kentucky University with my B.A. in Psychology," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "I learned very quickly that my college years was a time to explore and through that process, I learned about my interests, true values, and what made me happy."

The 2009 Rota High School alumna also earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychological Science at Northern Kentucky University, with a concentration on human services and mental health, graduating magna cum

laude in 2012.

Before entering the university, Paeda earned her Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts in 2011 at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, immediately after completing courses at the Northern Marianas College.

Besides being one of the top students in her class, Paeda was also civically engaged while on Rota, participating in the AmeriCorps tutoring program, JROTC, National Honor Society, Close-Up, American Red Cross, and the Youth Senate.

"Through these organizations, I was able to serve the community and help people, a deed that I truly enjoyed," she said.

Paeda's passion for service did not end at her high school commencement ceremony. As an undergraduate student, she was a member of the International Honor Society in Psychology and the Golden Key International Honor Society. During this time, the Rota lass served as an undergraduate student researcher for a college professor, studying the effects of energy drinks and alcohol mixed with energy drinks on behavioral control.

As if those activities did not occupy her enough, Paeda in-

terned at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, for the Division of Behavioral Medicine and Clinical Psychology the same year. Eventually, she had the opportunity to travel abroad to Ireland to study resilience in children, an aspect of her studies.

Paeda explained that she returned to NKU because of its rigorous academic courses and evidence-based, data-driven school counseling program.

"After graduating with my bachelor's degree, I wanted to pursue school psychology; however, after doing my research, I learned that I wouldn't have many interactions with children aside from testing them. I learned about the school-counseling program at NKU and decided to pursue it," she added.

Rooted in the island life

As a child growing up on Rota, Paeda said she enjoyed spending quality time with friends and family.

Her drive to extend a helping hand to those in the community who need it, she said, stems from seeing her parents, Nurul Islam Paeda and Elizabeth Paeda, work tirelessly to provide for her and others.

"My mother showed me the

value of helping others. She was the first OB-GYN Nurse Practitioner on Rota and the only child among her 11 brothers and sisters who attended college. My father showed me the value of persistence, hard work, and education by encouraging me to strive for the stars," she explained. "He was a farmer and a former PSS employee, and now a successful small-business owner. Growing up, I have spent many times trying to help others, while also working hard to reach my goals."

As a student on Rota, she said she never received proper guidance from a counselor for college and career planning.

She explained that the most significant factor that influenced her to pursue this vocation was the thought of one day returning to the island to make a difference in her community.

"I also saw a need for school counselors in the CNMI. I knew that many families were facing difficulties with our economic situation, which can significantly impact the children," she said.

She urges students to seek guidance from friends, family, and teachers if they do not have a school counselor.

She hopes that local students will "keep on trying and take the time to think about what success means to them, and strive to reach it."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Johora Paeda graduated with her Masters in School Counseling from Northern Kentucky University in May.

Motion to dismiss ex-Ranger's lawsuit over guns found moot

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has found moot Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero's and Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson's motion to dismiss the amended lawsuit filed by former U.S. Army Ranger Paul Michael Murphy over the alleged confiscation of his firearms and ammunition in 2007.

In denying the motion to dismiss, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the day after Deleon Guerrero and Larson filed the motion, Murphy had a non-party serve his summons and second amended complaint on the two officials.

"It appears that service has now been perfected," Manglona said.

The judge ordered Deleon Guerrero and Larson to file a re-

sponse by June 19, 2015.

Manglona, in an earlier order, explained that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure prohibits a party from a lawsuit from serving his own process.

Manglona said Murphy himself attempted to serve his summons and second amended complaint on Deleon Guerrero and Larson.

In their motion to dismiss, defendants pointed out Mur-

phy's error.

Deleon Guerrero and Larson, through the Office of the Attorney General, moved to dismiss the lawsuit for insufficient service of process.

Assistant attorney general James M. Zarones argued that Murphy attempted to personally serve process of the summons and the amended complaint upon the defendants in violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Zarones asserted that the court previously informed Murphy that he may not personally serve the defendants with process.

Last April, Manglona granted the CNMI government's motion to dismiss Murphy's \$5-million lawsuit. Murphy was allowed,

however, to file an amended complaint.

The judge said Murphy failed to sign his first amended complaint, although he signed the original complaint.

Manglona said Murphy also erred in naming the Commonwealth as the defendant in the caption, rather than DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero, as he did in the pleadings.

Manglona said neither the Commonwealth nor Deleon Guerrero was properly served, in violation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

The judge pointed out that Murphy is a pro se, non-lawyer litigant and that it makes sense to give him the benefit of the doubt when he is tripped up by the legal profession's arcane rules.

In a pro se complaint (filed without a lawyer), Murphy, who is now a teacher, also asked the court to repeal the CNMI Weapons Control Act and all associated legislation, licensing, taxation, recording, administration, and processing.

Murphy said DPS withheld his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to the Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is still being held by CNMI DPS Firearms Section.

Murphy said DPS denied his repeated request to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.

Ex-convict allegedly found in possession of 20 bags of pot

An ex-convict whose federal probation was revoked many times due to continued use of illegal drugs has allegedly been found in possession of 20 bags of marijuana.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that Steven Faisao Abal does not appear to be amenable to supervision due to his continued violation of probation conditions.

Arriola recommended that the 11-month imprisonment term, ordered by Senior Judge Alex R. Munson last May 13, be immediately imposed.

By doing so, Abal would reach his maximum term of imprisonment imposed for the original offense, Arriola said.

Arriola stated in his report that he and two deputy U.S. Marshals visited Abal's house on Saipan to monitor and conduct a random drug test. Inside Abal's bedroom, Arriola saw several plastic transparent bags containing green leafy substance on top of a dresser. He said the substance later tested positive for marijuana.

The report did not indicate the weight of the 20 bags of marijuana.

When asked about the marijuana, Abal reportedly stated that the "weeds" were not his but his girlfriend's cousin.

When asked if there were marijuana plants around the house, Abal said there were but they belonged to the "old man," referring to George Duenas, who owns the house where Abal

is staying.

When informed about Abal's claims, Duenas confirmed that the plants belonged to him, Arriola said. Duenas allegedly explained that the marijuana plants were for his consumption because he heard that smoking the herb was good for a medical condition that he currently suffers from.

When told about the 20 bags found in Abal's bedroom, Duenas allegedly admitted that the bags were also his and that he had asked Abal to store them out of children's reach.

Arriola noted that when he saw the bags of marijuana, there was a child sleeping in the room.

The probation officer said that, according to Duenas, someone was supposed to stop by his residence and pick up the bags of marijuana.

Arriola said he informed Duenas that Abal should not be in possession of any illegal drugs because it was a violation of his conditions and against the law.

Arriola said Duenas explained that he thought that marijuana was no longer illegal in the CNMI, just like in Guam. Arriola informed Duenas that this information was incorrect.

On May 22, 2015, Abal reported to the U.S. Probation Office for a noncompliance meeting and drug test.

Abal said the information Duenas gave was accurate. Arriola pointed out that Abal initially stated that the bags belonged to his girlfriend's cousin.

Abal acknowledged that he should not be in possession of any illegal drugs, including marijuana, and admitted that it was a bad decision on his part, according to Arriola.

Abal, however, denied ownership of the marijuana. He also denied selling them for profit. He submitted to a drug test and tested negative for the use of illegal drugs.

With the probation officer's report, Abal was then summoned to explain in court why the revocation of his supervised release should not be imposed immediately.

Last month, Senior Judge Munson sentenced Abal to 11 months imprisonment. Munson, however, deferred the sentence for two months.

Abal was ordered to report to the U.S. Probation Office twice a week for drug testing during the two months of deferment.

If Abal tests positive during the two-month period, the sentence shall be imposed, the judge said.

Attorney Robert T. Torres is court-appointed counsel for Abal.

In a prior request for revocation, Arriola informed the court that Abal tested positive for the use of opiates on Feb. 15, 2015, and also admitted entering a poker establishment to gamble.

Abal was sentenced in October 2005 to 20 months in prison and five years of supervised release for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice."

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Judge Wiseman at Kagman High on Law Day

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman gave a "2015 Law Day" presentation before an assembly of students at Kagman High School. In front of students in a packed cafeteria, Wiseman explained the value and applicability of the law in the lives of ordinary citizens, as well as a discussion

on this year's Law Day theme of Magna Carta.

Wiseman also conducted a Q&A session where the judge answered questions from high school students and staff. The questions ranged from light-hearted topics such as where Wiseman got his suit, to thought-provoking questions

such as the merits of the death penalty.

Law Day takes place every year on the first day of May. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day as a day of national dedication to the principles of government under the law. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Judge David A. Wiseman gives a presentation before an assembly of students at Kagman High School as part of the celebration of "Law Day."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors and caregivers support meeting on Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 11, 2015, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker will be Dr. Tiffany Lin, MD, department chair of Pediatrics/UCSF Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellow, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Topic: "Survivorship guidelines for survivors of cancer: How to take care of your health if you have survived cancer and gotten chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or surgery for your cancer." To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

CCA board meeting on June 16

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the CCA at 682-0050 or email at cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

Artist registration for FESTPAC now open

The Northern Mariana Islands Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee is now accepting applications from NMI artisans interested in participating in the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in Guam in May 2016.

The FESTPAC Organizing Committee is asking local artisan groups and individuals interested in representing the NMI in any of the following categories to submit a registration form with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture by June 15, 2015:

■ **Performing arts:** Traditional dance, Drama/theatre, oral chants, oratory and storytelling, music, and Jamz House.

■ **Literary Arts:** Traditional storytelling/oratory, Publications (Pacific Island stories and

novels; Pacific biographies and journals), history, theater, fashion, indigenous language.

■ **Demonstrations/exhibitions:** Visual arts, floral arts, culinary arts, canoe and navigation, children's art show, photography, tattooing, traditional healing, body ornamentation, carving works, handicrafts, film festival, and traditional games.

■ **Demonstration/Exhibition:** Fire walking, weaving, fishing and hunting traditions.

■ **Forums, workshops, seminars**

Interested groups and individuals should contact Feofaaki McMahon at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at fe_mcmahon@yahoo.com or 670.322.9982/3.

The 12th Festival of Pacific Arts will be held on May 22-June 4, 2016, in Guam. The Northern Marianas has received approval from Guam to increase its number of delegates from 150 to 250.

"We invite serious local artists to register and apply so that our unique indigenous cultures, traditional knowledge, and customary practices native to our Marianas cultural homeland are displayed at this premier cultural Olympics for the world to witness and appreciate," said FESTPAC Organizing Committee chair John DLR. "Bolis" Gonzales.

The selection of participants will be made by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture based on a set of

criteria. Upon selection, delegates will be asked to pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit to secure their registration and will receive an official letter of selection as an endorsement for fundraising purposes.

Gonzales also announced that the committee has registered the business CNMI FESTPAC as a non-profit organization. The organization is comprised of co-vice chairs Perry P. Tenorio and Gordon Marciano, secretary Gloriana M. Teuira with the following subcommittees: Program, co-chaired by Gordon I. Marciano and Frances M. Sablan; Logistics, co-chaired by Jose T. Limes and Parker Yobei; and Finance, with Margaret "Abick" R. Muna and Martin F. Duenas as co-treasurers. (PR)

CPA gets \$1.4M in federal grants for airport upgrade

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded three grants totaling \$1.4 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

In his weekly e-newsletter, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said one award

of \$420,000 will fund an update to the existing airport master plan to show current and future needs of the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on Rota.

Two awards of \$360,000 each

will be used to acquire power sweepers to remove debris from the Rota and Tinian airfields.

Positive

Last April, international bond ratings agency Fitch Ratings

gave the CPA airport bonds a B+ while CPA seaport bonds have been reaffirmed at "BB-," or "Stable" rating.

Fitch upgraded CPA's \$12 million of outstanding senior series 1998A airport revenue bonds from B- to B+. CPA airport bonds have been revised from "Stable" to "Positive."

Fitch said this upgrade re-

flects the "steady improvement in the airport's operating profile." This has resulted in high coverage, increased liquidity, and low leverage, says Fitch. And is "notably stronger" than CPA's "distressed financial profile" that began in 2006.

In addition, Fitch says that low traffic rebounded significantly in fiscal year 2012 and

now appears to have stabilized.

A "positive" rating reflects adequate financial stability independent of traffic performance. It also reflects, among others, continued improvements in the underlying service area economy and the airport's ability to maintain and grow its current traffic base.

(Joel D. Pinaroc)

Saipan casino commission chief: Tinian Dynasty case is 'serious'

By JOEL PINAROC

joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The decision of the U.S. Department of the Treasury to impose a massive \$75 million penalty against Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino will have a huge impact on its workers and the company itself.

According to Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan the case is "serious" and will impact hundreds.

He added that "\$75 million is huge" and that closure of the Tinian casino could be possible.

Sablan declined to provide further comments, saying the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission is not under the jurisdiction of Sablan's commission.

Unlike the exclusive casino license on Saipan, the casino industry on Tinian was approved via an "initiative" in which the people themselves voted in its favor.

As of Friday, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission chair Lucia Blanco-Maratita

was reportedly on leave and was unable to give a comment on the case.

The commissioners were also not available for an interview over the phone on Friday, a staff of the commission told *Saipan Tribune*.

Several online comments on *Saipan Tribune's* story titled "Treasure fines Dynasty \$75M" raised questions over what the Tinian casino commissioners have been doing all this time and why they failed to properly monitor and regulate Tinian Dynasty.

On Friday, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, commonly known as FinCEN, assessed the civil penalty of \$75 million against the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino for "willful and egregious violations" of the Bank Secrecy Act.

FinCEN Director Jennifer Shasky Calvery determined that Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and

Casino, failed to develop and implement an anti-money laundering program to ensure ongoing compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act.

When asked to comment, Tinian Dynasty general manager Christopher Bishop told *Saipan Tribune* that he learned about it only on Thursday morning and that they have no comment. Bishop said he already discussed the matter with their counsel, Bruce Berline.

Hong Kong Entertainment is facing criminal charges on the same issue. Bishop also refused to comment when asked how the \$75 million fine will affect the trial.

In a statement, Calvery said that Tinian Dynasty didn't just fail to file a few reports but the casino operated for years without an anti-money laundering program in place.

Calvery said Tinian Dynasty failed to file thousands of currency transaction reports, or CTRs, and its management willfully facilitated suspicious transactions and even provided helpful hints for skirting and avoiding the laws in the U.S. and overseas.

Angelly Guiang named new student rep

By DENNIS B. CHAN

dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Angelly Marie Guiang, a sophomore at Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School, has officially been selected as the new student representative on the CNMI State Board of Education.

Guiang is a member of the National Honor Society, her high school's class treasurer, vice president of the school's Young Harmony Glee Club, and also a ranking officer in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, or JROTC.

Last Thursday, Gov. Eloy S. Inos officially appointed Guiang as a non-voting member of the State Board of Education to represent public school students.

"Lt. Gov. Ralph Torres and I are confident that you will make a valuable contribution, and we appreciate your willingness to serve and provide input from a student's point of view," wrote Inos in his appointment letter.

On Friday, BOE chair Herman Guerrero welcomed Guiang to the education board.

"We have confidence in your ability to represent the public school students and bring their concerns to the [board]," he said.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan nominated Guiang on Tuesday.

In the commissioner's nomination packet, Guiang is de-

scribed as "responsible person who does her tasks right."

"She believes that everybody is created differently but we are made to be equal regardless of race or background. She respects and values people she works with," the nomination packet reads.

Guiang further described her education achievements in an essay justifying her leadership skills and ability to represent on the board.

She also noted her community outreach efforts. She has been an active leader in the Youth Ministry at the Rota Christian Assembly of God Church. She has played a role in "beautify-

ing beaches" through a local cleanup program, and she has also won first place in the Child Abuse Prevention program.

Guiang will serve on the Student Issues and Community and Parent Programs board committee.

As student representative, she is expected to call meetings with various student council bodies, ensure student participation and talk of issues relevant to the public school student body.

Guiang will replace current student rep Lora Dee A. Hocog on June 17.

A student representative is appointed on a rotating basis by senatorial district. Hocog is from Saipan Southern High School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Angelly Marie Guiang, a sophomore at Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School, has been selected as the new student representative on the CNMI State Board of Education.

KHS: Impostor posed as counselor to solicit funds on behalf of school

By DENNIS B. CHAN

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REPORTER

Kagman High School says an unidentified impostor solicited and received a donation for the school's graduation while posing as a school counselor last Friday.

KHS acting principal Leila Staffler warned businesses to be wary of possible fraud.

In an announcement to media, Staffler said that on Friday a business partner that the high school works with on a regular basis called to verify if they had received "the solicited donation

for graduation."

Staffler said they were informed that someone posing as one of their counselors was soliciting for graduation in the form of cash donations.

The impostor did not leave any contact information and said they would be the one to call for a follow up, Staffler said.

The impostor then called to inform the business that a student would pick up the donation.

"The person who picked up the donation was a male, short in stature, wearing a hat

and shades in his early 20s with a small mustache," the principal said.

Staffler would like the public to know that:

■ Kagman High School never asks for cash donations.

■ KHS would never send a student to pick up solicitation.

■ KHS always leaves a contact number.

Staffler urges the public to be wary of possible fraud, to call the school to confirm requests if you are suspicious at 237-3849, and to report to the police if you have been a victim of fraud.

Woman allegedly assaults 2 cops, tries to grab gun

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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REPORTER

A female passenger service agent was arrested for allegedly making a disturbance at a massage parlor in Susupe and trying to grab a gun from one of three police officers during a struggle on Wednesday night.

Jayna Jia Cepeda Kaipat, 26, also allegedly kicked police officer Pete Seman several times in the chest and once in the throat, scratched police officer Kui Rogopes' face, and threatened to kill the officers and their families.

Kaipat was taken to Superior Court for a bail hearing on Friday on charges of assault and battery, assault, resisting arrest, obstructing justice: interference with law enforcement officer or witness, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio allowed Kaipat

to post \$375 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for June 11 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Kaipat.

Police detective Daniel T. Kintol stated in his report that three police officers responded to I Love Massage on Wednesday at 7:58pm after a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety about a woman causing a disturbance.

Kintol said the officers learned that Kaipat entered the massage parlor, demanded to use the phone, began to argue with the owner, and refused to leave the parlor.

One officer tried to escort Kaipat out but she refused to leave and became uncooperative. When Seman asked the parlor's owner if she wanted to file a complaint, Kaipat allegedly grabbed the officer's right shoulder, turning him around

and yelling at him not to force the owner to make a complaint.

Seman tried to secure Kaipat in handcuffs but she allegedly resisted and struggled with the three officers.

During the struggle, Kaipat allegedly tried to grab the gun of Rogopes from its holster, but a bystander yelled that the defendant was trying to get the gun.

The officers secured Kaipat in handcuffs. As the officers had a hard time putting her in the police vehicle, Kaipat's own husband assisted the officers in carrying her into the police vehicle.

While Seman was closing the door, Kaipat allegedly kicked her repeatedly in the chest and once in the throat. She also threatened to kill the officers and their families.

In the booking area at the Department of Corrections, Kaipat was allegedly still uncooperative and scratched Rogopes in the face.

Navy, Air Force training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ June 8, from midnight to 4am and 10am to 11:55pm

■ June 9-10, from 10am to 11:55pm

The U.S. Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on June 8 from midnight to 11:55pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the

training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is activated South of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain

clear of W-517 South of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42'E, 12° 50'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/144° 45'E, 11° 00'N/143° 00'E, 11° 45'N/143° 00'E, 12° 50'N/144° 30'E. (PR)

OIA's Kia'aina to make her first official visit to FSM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will visit Pohnpei State, the capitol of the Federated States of Micronesia, from June 8 to June 11, 2015, to meet with the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, Speaker of the FSM Congress, Pohnpei State Governor,

and other national and state government officials. Her meetings will cover topics to include priorities under the Compact of Free Association with the FSM, typhoon recovery, economic development, Compact Impact and Climate Change.

This will be the Assistant Secretary's first official visit to the Federated States of Micro-

nesia in her current capacity, although she did visit Pohnpei in 1996, as part of a congressional visit when she accompanied former Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Frank Murkowski of Alaska and former U.S. senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii. She has worked for many years on issues directly affecting the Federated States of Micronesia as a staff member of the U.S. Congress. Kia'aina also has a connection to Pohnpei through her great-great-grandfather, Samuel Kamakahiki, from Keanae, Maui, who served as a missionary on Pohnpei in 1855.



Kia'aina

"The ties we share with the Federated States of Micronesia are enshrined in the Compact of Free Association, but go beyond Compact grant funding. It is historical and cultural," said Kia'aina. "Not only do we now share a history since sacrifices made in World War II, we are further bound by the service of hundreds of FSM citizens who are proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, have served or have given the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and democracy. Given that the FSM has the largest population among our three Compact relationships in the Pacific, it is vital that we double down on our ef-

forts to improve the effectiveness of not only health and education grant funding provided under the Compact of Free Association, but all funding."

Kia'aina will meet with FSM President Peter M. Christian, Speaker of the FSM National Congress Wesley Simina, Pohnpei Gov. John Ehsa, and other leaders from both the national and state governments. Her activities on Pohnpei will include visits with conservation and women's organizations to discuss local environment and organization efforts, a trip to the ancient historic ruins of Nan Madol and the International Organization for Migration to discuss typhoon recovery efforts and Compact Impact issues. She will also meet briefly with

Gov. Johnson Elimo of Chuuk State and other officials in transit through Chuuk.

Kia'aina ends her trip with a stop in Honolulu to meet with Hawaii Gov. David Ige and members of his Cabinet to discuss her initiatives and work toward mitigating the impacts of Compact migration to the State of Hawaii. She will be accompanied by representatives from Hawaii congressional offices, and non-governmental organizations Partners in Development Foundation and We Are Oceania, a Native Hawaiian-Micronesian NGO partnership whose goal is to stand up a Micronesian One-Stop Center in Hawaii, run by Micronesians to serve Micronesians in Hawaii. (OIA)

Marshalls gets \$348,200 from OIA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved last week \$348,200 from the Technical and Maintenance Assistance Programs in the Office of Insular Affairs to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for fiscal year 2015. Funds will support a wide range of projects from fish farming to radio broadcasting to water catchment and treatment as well as to providing identification cards, safety training for utility workers, and a personnel audit of the national college.

"This year's grants to the Marshall Islands have been exciting," said Nikolao Pula, Director of the Office of Insular Affairs. "We are able to impact areas that improve the quality of life for citizens in the Marshall Islands from water catchment and treatment to more efficient provision of identification cards and increased fish farming and employment opportunities. We are impressed by the creativity and quality of submissions received this funding cycle."

■ **\$60,000 to the Majuro Atoll Water and Sewer Co.** to reline and install a new cover and liner for MWSC's damaged treated water reservoir. The entire project cost to the Marshall Islands government is \$227,000, of which OIA will contribute \$60,000.

■ **\$12,800 for safety training and equipment at MWSC:** Funding will be used to provide safety training, including the purchase of equipment and relevant tools.

■ **\$41,000 to National Broadcasting V7AB Radio Marshall Islands:** Funds will be used to purchase equipment and upgrade the Marshall Islands' national broadcaster, Radio Marshall Islands, V7AB.

■ **\$14,500 to support government-issued ID cards:** Funds will be used to purchase two new ID card machines for the Registry of Persons Division in order to provide more reliable and efficient identification services to all citizens of the Marshall Islands. One machine will replace outdated equipment in the capital (Majuro); the other on Ebeye. Residents of the Marshall Islands will be able to obtain identification

cards, which will include their photographs and other identifying information. Ebeye has more than a quarter of the Marshall Islands population.

■ **\$41,400 to the Ministry of Finance** to enhance Information and Technology stations within the Ministry. New computers and monitors will be purchased to replace outdated and faulty equipment. The Ministry of Finance revenue and fiscal functions include revenue tax and duty collection and accounting, budget control, financial data processing and the collection, disbursement and accounting of all public funds for the Government of the Marshall Islands.

■ **\$100,000 to the Rongelap Atoll local government** for the acquisition of sea cages for fish farming. In 2012, RALGOV piloted a fish farm project to see whether the Pacific Thread fin fish (more commonly known as "Moi") could be domesticated in the Marshall Islands. The initial project was a stunning success with Moi growing faster than in other locations with lower mortality rates. RALGOV has targeted Hawaiian and Asian markets for their fish and expect fish farming to be a sustainable business venture providing much needed employment and income for the people of Rongelap Atoll. OIA funds will help increase the capacity of this project by 60 percent

■ **\$78,500 to the College of the Marshall Islands for a Personnel Audit** that provides analysis of the college's human resources, identify employee capacity, and provides recommendations for development and implementation of an optimal organizational and staffing structure. Established in 1993, the CMI is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and offers high school equivalency, community extension, student development, certificate, and Associate degree programs in liberal arts and sciences, business administration, elementary education and nursing as well as a Bachelor's degree in education. (OIA)

In Loving Memory

Margarita Deleon Guerrero Castro (Adig)

May 27, 1951 - June 2, 2015
of Fina Sisú, was called home by her Creator at the age of 64

In her new life, +Adig now joins the angels and saints in Paradise, together with her:
Husband: Luis Tenorio Castro

Parents: Juan Reyes & Nicolasa Quitugua Deleon Guerrero
Siblings: Jesus Q. Deleon Guerrero, Gregorio Q. Deleon Guerrero, Juan Q. Deleon Guerrero

Parents-In-Law: Juan Manibusan & Soledad Tenorio Castro

Siblings-In-Law: Maria T. Castro, Rosa C. Enriquez, Ludenilla F. Castro, Lydia F. Castro, Antonia Pinaula Deleon Guerrero

+Adig's kind and gentle spirit will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children: Joanne Marie Castro/Raymond Indalecio (Shevonne, Sean, Shaina); Marlyn Yvonne C. & Gordon S. Cruz (Frederick, Garrett, Monika); Luis John Castro/Elaine Cabrera (Damian, Gaige, Kozmy, Reianah and Kymo Porras); Nicole Sonia Castro/Vince Teregeyo

Siblings/In-Laws: Jose Q./+Antonia P. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Herman Q./Lucia A. Deleon Guerrero & Family; +Jesus Q./Wilhelma Juanita C. Deleon Guerrero & Family; +Juan Q./Ines R. Deleon Guerrero & Family; Maria DLG./Jaime A. Sasamoto & Family; Pedro Q./Buhay Deleon Guerrero & Family; Francisco Q./Barbara P. Deleon Guerrero and Family; Teresita B. Purtudo & Family

Siblings-In-Law: Juan T./Ana S. Castro & Family; Joaquin T./Maria M. Castro & Family; Teresita C./Rodrigo San Pedro & Family; Rudolfo T./Quilan Castro & Family; Ramon T./Rita M. Castro & Family; Margarita C./Sebastian B. Matagolai & Family; Jose T./Alice C. Castro & Family.

She will also be remembered by many cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Masses are offered daily at 6:00AM, with the Rosary being prayed nightly at 7:00PM at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Thursday, June 11, the remains of +Adig will be escorted to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30AM. Viewing and last respects will be from 8:30 to 10:00AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00AM, followed by her interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where we will bid her farewell and peaceful rest together with her husband +Luis.

Un Dangkulo' na Si Yu'os Ma'ase yan Si Yu'os Infanbinendise!
The Children, Grandchildren & Loved Ones of +Margarita DLG. Castro

Hundreds join fundraising 'Run for Nepal'

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Hundreds of individuals joined the 5K "Run for Nepal" spearheaded by the Nepalese Community of Saipan with the Saipan Young Professionals Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last Saturday.

About 300 woke up early to support the fundraising run, which started at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai Church.

Prior to the run, a prayer and a moment of silence were offered to those who perished and are still suffering because of the series of devastating quakes that have hit Nepal since April, including three that were more than magnitude 7 in strength.

Quake experience

Pramila Gurung, a waitress at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, was visiting her family in Nepal when the earthquakes happened



Keith Longuski wins first place for the senior division at the Run for Nepal fundraising event last Saturday.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

in April. She told the crowd on Saturday about the horrifying

and traumatizing experience she and her family went through.

Gurung said she was on the third floor of a building when it

happened. Luckily for her and her family, they were able to ran out into the open. After that, they stayed outside their house. Help didn't come until their third day on the streets, afraid of going inside buildings that were full of giant cracks and anticipating aftershocks.

"The second time was so strong. The buildings were shaking, like dancing," Gurung

told the community. "That's the time when I thought, 'this is the last moment of my life,'" she said in a shaky voice.

She thanked everyone for coming out to help and support her countrymen.

Direct help

A \$10 registration fee was paid per runner. Aside from this, raffle tickets and shirts were sold at the event.

According to the society's president, Mahesh Thapa, funds will go directly to those who need it in Nepal as they have a counterpart team there who is taking care of allocating the money to the local community.

"It's a very successful event for us. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all the community members for supporting us and participating," Thapa said.

"A lot of people even donated but they didn't run. And we had a good turnout with the kids," SYP chair Mable Ayuyu said.

Prizes for the top three finishers included medals, hotel stays, and gifts from Nepalese culture including a *karuwa*, which is their traditional water jug, and a *khukuri*, which is an old knife mainly used during World War II.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Members of the Tan Holdings family together with its president Jerry Tan participated in the run-for-a-cause, raising funds to directly help the survivors of the series of quakes felt in Nepal.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Kids hold Nepal's flag as they walk to the starting line of the Run for Nepal event at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Welcome reception for USS *Milius* held

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

A welcome reception was held Friday for the crewmembers of the USS *Milius* at Kanoa Resort's Club C in Susupe.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce welcomed the crew when they arrived Thursday and hosted the reception as well.

About 300 sailors are aboard the guided missile destroyer.

SCC executive director Jill Arenovski and some members of Legislature, including House vice speaker Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) were present at the Club C reception.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who chairs the Chamber's military

affairs committee, presented the Navy with a welcoming plaque as well souvenirs from the Chamber. The Navy previously presented gifts to the Chamber as well.

On behalf of its crew, USS *Milius*' captain, Commander Michael Rak, accepted the plaque.

"We have definitely felt very welcome," Rak said. "This is already—even though it's only been 24 hours—by far the best port visit that we have had."

The crew spent almost 200 days in the Arabian Gulf and went through Singapore before coming to Saipan.

Choosing Saipan

According to Rak, they actually chose to come to Saipan after he experienced the island's

hospitality during his previous deployment.

"We're very happy to be here, the crew is very happy to be here. Thank you for the hospitality," Rak said.

"It's tropical, everyone's been so nice, it's fantastic," operations officer Lt. Jessica Poniatoski said. "It's nice to be almost home."

Several activities were prepared for the crew such as sports events and visits to various tourist sites and historic landmarks.

"We talk a lot on our ship about U.S. Navy heritage and to actually get to see some up close, some local sites where historical events happened is really something," Rak said. "Nowhere else have we had this kind of welcome."



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

A welcome reception was held for the crew members of the USS *Milius* by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at Kanoa Resort's Club C last Friday. Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman spoke to formally welcome the Navy and presented them a plaque.

Guam becomes first US territory to recognize gay marriage

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A federal judge's ruling has made Guam the first U.S. territory to recognize gay marriage, leading the governor who opposed the weddings to declare that the island will accept marriage license applications from same-sex couples.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood issued the decision to a packed courtroom after a hearing Friday local time, saying the territory's ban violated a gay couple's constitutional rights to equal protection under the law.

The ruling goes into effect Tuesday morning, when same-sex couples can begin applying for marriage licenses.

Gov. Eddie Calvo previously said a decision was impractical when the Supreme Court was expected to rule on the issue this month. But he said after the District Court ruling that "I have a solemn duty to uphold the law."

"To the proponents and opponents alike, I ask that we all come together despite our differences of opinion, united in our common love of Guam and of each other," Calvo said in a news release.

The ruling came after Loretta M. Pangelinan, 28, and Kathleen M. Aguero, 29, sued in April after they were denied a marriage license.

"We are delighted with the news," Aguero said in a news release. "Actually, we've been waiting for nearly eight years to marry. We're so happy that the time has finally come."

The women plan to wed June 20, said their attorney, R. Todd Thompson.

They based their lawsuit on a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision last year in favor of same-sex marriage. The U.S. District Court of Guam falls under the 9th Circuit.

Attorneys for the Guam plaintiffs had argued the territory must fall in line with the 9th Circuit decision and

accept marriage license applications unless the U.S. Supreme Court rules otherwise. Currently, gay couples can marry in 36 states, the District of Columbia and now, Guam.

Guam Attorney General Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson directed

officials in April to process gay couples' marriage license applications based on the 9th Circuit decision, but they refused with support from the governor.

She appointed an attorney to represent Calvo and the Office of Vital Statistics registrar because

they didn't agree on the lawsuit.

"Equality under our Constitution prevailed today," Barrett-Anderson said after the ruling.

Attorney Michael Phillips, who represented Calvo and Territorial Registrar Carolyn Garrido, said the officials are going

to comply with the ruling.

"It's probably the only case in history where you have a decision one way or another and then a final decision coming within weeks—literally within weeks," Phillips said, referring to the expected Supreme Court ruling.

About 80 percent of Guam residents are Catholic. Guam Archbishop Anthony Apuron said in a statement that the ruling "is not only a defeat for Christian principles, but a defeat for our island and the whole of humanity."

Network Japan holds WWII memorial service

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting Japanese entertainment group, the Consular Office of Japan, and the Saipan Mayor's Office recalled the sacrifices and lessons of World War II in a peace memorial yesterday morning at Last Command Post in Marpi.

Led by president and CNMI tourism ambassador Chiaki Nagumo, this was Network Japan's eighth memorial service

on Saipan.

Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Japanese Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio attended the event along with House Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), chairman of the House's tourism committee.

In his remarks, Apatang recalled the "great lessons" learned from World War II. "Sometimes those lessons are rooted in goodwill and some in

conflict, he said, remembering the lives ended and destroyed by the war.

Often, people may want to erase those painful memories, he said. But it is important to visit the lessons of the past to reaffirm a commitment to a peaceful future.

"We need to keep the lessons valid in this special place in which we are gathered today," he said, so that the "lesson will not be repeated."

Consul Kikuchi said the

peace and stability Japan now enjoys was built on the sacrifices of the war. These sacrifices should never be forgotten, he said.

"Seventy years have passed since the war. Time is flying so fast the memory of the war is getting dimmer and dimmer, year after year," but these memories should be handed to the next generation, he said.

"So that we may prevent our society from being plunged once again into the ravages of war," the consul said, expressing also his profound gratitude

to Nogumo and Network Japan for these memorial services.

He said he hopes these memorial services will continue.

The event, which started at 9am, finished around 10am. Led by high priest Shudo Okuno, the ceremony featured meditative prayers, laying of flowers and pouring of water on the Japan peace memorial.

Around 40 people joined yesterday's event. Also in tow were famous Japanese singers and entertainer Sachiko Kobayashi, Goro Noguchi, and Tatsunori Fuse, respectively.



Visiting Network Japan members, Japanese Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi, and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, along with other government officials, pose for a photo after a memorial service yesterday morning at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

DENNIS B. CHAN

Children from prior marriages can be slow to accept change

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorced mother with an 11-year-old daughter. My boyfriend, "John," and I have been together for two years and we're serious. He is also divorced, with a 13-year-old daughter.

We have tried to be sensitive and understanding about their feelings about our recent divorces and our relationship, but both girls are having a difficult time coping with it. We are very loving and inclusive, so it's not as if they should feel resentful or left out. But this is starting to cause a rift in our relationship.

There comes a point when they need to understand that this is the new norm and get used to it. We try to include each other's daughter in shared events, but it ends up becoming a forced struggle. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

THE NEW NORM

DEAR NEW NORM: Welcome to the world of blended families. As much as we would wish it, the adjustment isn't always smooth, because when children are involved, their world is often torn apart.

A resource that can be helpful would be the Stepfamily Foundation Inc. (stepfamily.org). Your former spouses can also ease the adjustment for the girls by remaining actively involved in their lives, curbing their hostility and not pitting the children against either of you.

However, if that's not in the cards, then enlist the help of a licensed family therapist. Blended family counseling, divorce and remarriage counseling may be necessary to ease the girls' transition into "the new norm," which is anything but normal for them.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Alex," and I are a young couple and have been married for four years. I recently took a trip with him to visit his uncle and met one of Alex's cousins for the first time.

I was helping my mother-in-law in the kitchen when Alex called me to come and look at something on his computer. I responded, "Sir?" His cousin immediately started poking fun at it, and the rest of his family joined in.

To me, "Sir" is a gesture of respect to my husband. His family seemed to interpret it to mean I think I'm less than an equal in our relationship. This is definitely not the case. Alex and I both make sure to show respect and appreciation to each other in little ways throughout the day.

This isn't the first instance in which someone heard me address my husband as "Sir" and criticized my decision to use the word. Frankly, I have no intention to change the way I interact with my husband. What I'd like to know is, how do I nicely shut the conversation down when people give their unwelcome opinion?

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ANNOYED IN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

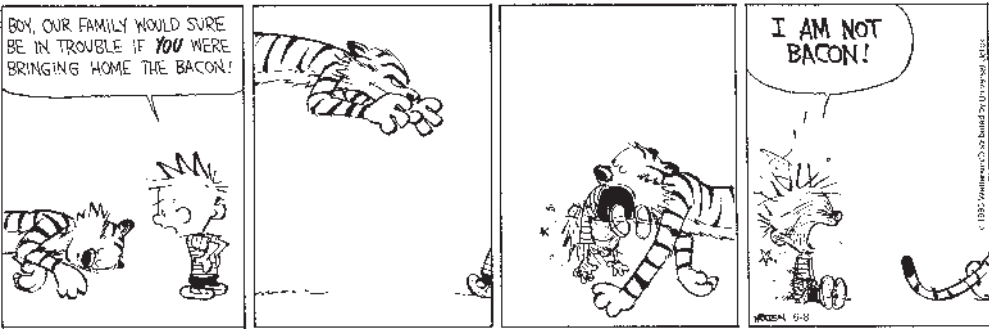
DEAR ANNOYED: It's possible these relatives did not grow up with the same formalities you are used to. If that's the case, smile and say, "I consider calling my husband 'Sir' a sign of respect. That's how I was raised. Don't you think he deserves it?" However, if the teasing doesn't stop, add, "I'm neither downtrodden nor subservient—and what I call him is really not your business."

■■■

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Pastimes

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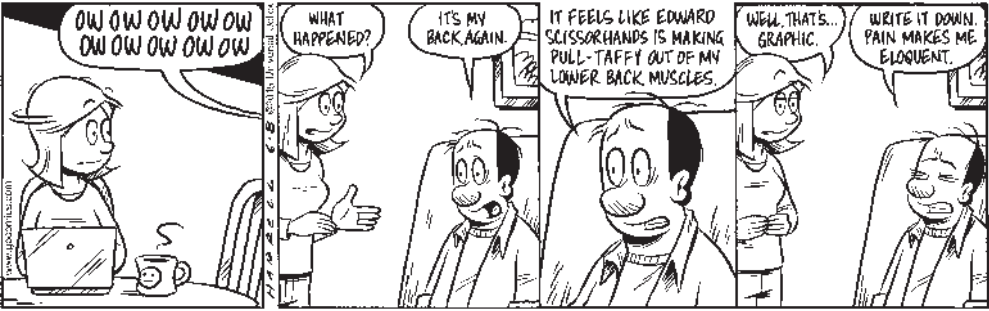


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Slippery" tree

4 Regions

9 Pismire

12 Vast expanse

13 Ballroom favorite

14 Actress Myrna

15 Letter from the Vatican

17 Cleopatra's slayer

18 Floral garland

19 Undeveloped stage

21 Reacted in horror

24 Leeway

25 "Uh-huh"

26 Thick-ness

28 Dynamite inventor Alfred

31 Disposition

33 Formal

25-Across

35 "I never — man I didn't like"

36 Porcine sniffer

38 Pen point

40 Varnish ingredient

41 Small sala-mander

43 In a whimsical way

45 IOU signer

47 Listener

48 Swiss canton

49 Sand-box toy, maybe

54 Zero

55 Moham-medanism

56 Pod denizen

57 Kenan's former Nickel-odeon pal

58 Autocrats

59 Upper surface

16 Matter-horn, for one

20 Prosper-ous time

21 Workout venues

22 Charlize Theron film, "— Flux"

23 Ibis' kin

27 Hanker-ing

29 Handy Latin abbr.

30 Frilly

32 Song for two

34 Motor-cycle attach-ment

37 Cheap

39 Lullaby composer

42 Lock of hair

44 Sphere

45 Basket-ball tactic

46 A Great Lake

50 Chicken — king

51 Suitable

52 Zodiac sign

53 Once around the track

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 6-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kanye West, 38; Julianna Margulies, 49; Keenen Ivory Wayans, 57.

Happy Birthday: Express your thoughts with unfiltered truthfulness and you will avoid wasting time dodging situations that will only stop you from reaching your goals. Work toward building a strong home base that is conducive to accomplishing your goals. Use the added discipline you've been granted this year and do your best to make thing happen. Charm and efficiency will pay off. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 21, 27, 36, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let your imagination and intuition guide you to success. Listening to intriguing offers will pique your interest and help you use your skills masterfully. Speak up and take action, and positive changes will occur. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider the best way to offer help before making a commitment. Your kindness and generosity will result in greater recognition, attracting people who are interested in your ideas, plans and projects. Form an alliance with someone who has just as much to contribute as you. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refrain from sharing personal information or letting everyone know what you are up to. A colleague will try to take credit for your work. Don't let your emotions spin out of control, which could make you look bad. Fight back using intellect and diplomacy. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take on a new project that infringes on your comfort zone. The growth and knowledge you will

obtain will be worth any discomfort you undergo. Avoid gossip or sharing your true feelings. Be creative and compassionate, not conniving. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lifestyle changes can be made if you are quick to take action. Check out opportunities in different geographical locations. Help someone facing a dilemma and you will be rewarded for your thoughtfulness. Protect your money and your possessions. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your wits about you. Not everyone will have your best interests at heart. Speak on your own behalf and don't trust anyone to take care of your responsibilities. Emotional matters will escalate based on false information. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen, observe and contribute your point of view. You can make progress if you are detailed and precise. Implement your creative ideas in your work and you will generate a buzz. Common interests will bring someone of interest closer to you. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Fix up your surroundings or do something that will improve your health. Explore new techniques that can help you live better. Do your own research and you will save money and avoid disappointment. Avoid indulgence. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Opportunity will knock, but before you take a leap of faith, consider what's necessary and what isn't. You will prosper more if you follow your own path and invest in your ideas rather than contribute to someone else's agenda. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Valuable information will come your way regarding a partnership opportunity. Share some of your ideas, but save the best until you negotiate a deal that is worth your while. Be up-front and willing to move forward alone if necessary. ****



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make home improvements, adjust your time and make changes to the way you earn and save. Greater discipline will be yours, and if you follow through, the gains you make will reduce stress and enhance your standard of living. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself and work alone if possible. Someone will look for any excuse to make you look bad. Avoid arguments and stick to the truth no matter what anyone else does or says. Don't initiate change if you aren't fully prepared. ***



Birthday Baby: You are diplomatic, caring and proactive. You are confident and original. Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4		6					
8	1							3	2	
	5							1		
6		4	9		3	5			1	
		3		6		7				
5		7	1		8	3			9	
	4							5		
9	7							8	6	
			8		1					

Difficulty Level ★

6/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

5	2	7	1	6	8	4	9	3
9	3	6	2	5	4	7	8	1
4	8	1	9	3	7	5	2	6
7	6	8	3	1	5	2	4	9
1	4	9	8	7	2	3	6	5
2	5	3	4	9	6	1	7	8
6	9	2	5	4	1	8	3	7
3	1	4	7	8	9	6	5	2
8	7	5	6	2	3	9	1	4

Difficulty Level ****

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SHIRATAKI NOODLES

Solution: 7 letters

G	N	S	Y	U	Y	R	A	T	E	I	D	L	I	M
E	L	A	P	R	K	S	T	S	B	R	O	S	B	A
L	T	U	T	A	T	A	E	R	U	T	X	E	T	Y
A	O	A	C	U	G	L	Y	E	S	N	I	R	A	C
T	P	W	R	O	R	H	U	N	I	P	S	E	E	A
I	D	E	F	E	M	A	E	O	N	U	R	C	M	J
N	I	R	S	A	G	A	L	T	P	O	U	I	A	N
O	S	K	Y	T	T	I	N	E	T	S	K	P	R	O
U	H	C	F	R	O	D	R	N	F	I	A	E	I	K
S	E	C	I	B	O	M	R	F	A	N	J	C	N	C
P	S	C	B	O	A	I	A	E	N	N	U	A	O	
I	E	A	F	R	S	B	S	S	I	R	O	A	T	
C	K	A	K	I	E	R	E	T	Y	N	K	S	A	S
E	E	E	A	R	F	E	T	T	U	C	C	I	N	E
S	T	N	A	T	S	A	P	L	A	N	T	H	I	N

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6/8

Absorbs, Asian, Bake, Boil, Cook, Dietary, Dishes, Drain, Dry Roast, Fettuccine, Fiber, Gelatinous, Glucmannan, Japanese, Konjac Yam, Konjaku, Konnyaku, Low-fat, Marinara, Meat, Mild, Natural, Pasta, Pesto, Plant, Poultry, Recipe, Refrigerate, Rice, Rinse, Sauce, Seafood, Soft, Soup, Spaghetti, Spices, Stock, Supermarket, Texture, Thin

Last Friday's Answer: Microphone

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NEXT 20

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American Pharoah runs into history with Triple Crown

NEW YORK (AP)—By mid-stretch, Bob Baffert knew it. American Pharoah was going to win the Triple Crown.

He took his eyes off the horse to soak in the crazed scene of the packed grandstand. Fans jumped up and down, hugged, and tossed drinks in the air.

The race wasn't even over yet, and the crowd knew it, too. Thirty-seven years of waiting to see one of the rarest feats in sports was almost over.

"The crowd was just thundering and I was just enjoying the crowd and the noise and everything happening," the white-haired trainer said. "What a feeling."

Finally, a Triple Crown winner. And this one was never in doubt.

American Pharoah led all the way to win the Belmont Stakes by 5 1/2 lengths on Saturday, becoming the first horse since 1978 to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes—one of the sporting world's rarest feats.

"Wow! Wow!" jockey Victor Espinoza said moments after crossing the finish line. "I can only tell you it is just an amazing thing."

The bay colt with the unusually short tail easily defeated seven rivals in the grueling 1 1/2-mile race, covering the distance in 2:26.65—sixth-fastest in Belmont history—to end the longest stretch without a Triple Crown champion in history.

"That little horse, he deserved it," said Baffert, who at 62 is the second-oldest trainer of a Triple Crown winner. "He's the one that did it. We were basically just passengers."

American Pharoah is the 12th horse and first since Affirmed in 1978 to win three races on different tracks at varying distances over a five-week span. He won the Derby by one length on May 2 and then romped to a seven-length victory in the rainy Preakness two weeks later before demolishing his rivals Saturday.



Victor Espinoza celebrates atop American Pharoah after winning the 147th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race at Belmont Park, Saturday, June 6, 2015, in Elmont, N.Y. AP

Baffert and Espinoza ended their own frustrating histories in the Triple Crown. Baffert finally won on his record fourth Triple try, having lost in 1997, 1998 (by a nose) and in 2002. Espinoza got it done with his record third shot after failing to win in 2002 and last year on California Chrome.

"I was prepared for somebody coming because I've been

through this so many times," Baffert said.

Nobody did.

Espinoza hustled American Pharoah to the lead leaving the No. 5 post and quickly got him over to the rail. Materiality was on his outside in second, but never applied any serious pressure traveling along the backstretch before falling away on the second turn.

American Pharoah started kicking away heading into the final turn. He opened up on the field as he powered through the 1,097-yard stretch, displaying his fluid, springloaded stride in which he appears to float over the ground.

"It's just an amazing feeling that you have when you're 20 yards from the wire," Espinoza said. "And then at the wire I was

like, 'I cannot believe I did it.'"

American Pharoah ran the final quarter-mile—a stretch that has dashed numerous Triple Crown dreams—in 24.32 seconds, faster than Secretariat's time of 25 seconds in winning the 1973 Belmont.

"That's a hell of a horse," said Gary Stevens, who finished seventh aboard Tale of Verve. "The race was over in the third jump from the gate."

After making his way back to the crowd, Espinoza took American Pharoah nearly the length of the sprawling grandstand so fans could pay their respects to the champion.

As the horses were heading to the starting gate, owner Ahmed Zayat was overflowing with confidence and turned to his wife.

"I told her, 'Get ready to be the owner of the 12th Triple Crown winner,'" he said.

Baffert felt equally good, sensing American Pharoah was on the verge of a winning performance when he saddled the horse in the shady paddock.

"I said to put him on the lead and go for it, and if he doesn't make it, don't worry about it," the trainer said, "but he just kept on rocking and rolling."

Sent off as the overwhelming 3-5 favorite, American Pharoah paid \$3.50, \$2.80 and \$2.50.

Frosted returned \$3.50 and \$2.90, while Keen Ice was another two lengths back in third and paid \$4.60 to show.

Mubtaahij was fourth, followed by Frammento, Made-from-lucky, Tale of Verve and Materiality.

American Pharoah delivered a victory for the Egyptian-born Zayat, who bred the colt and put him up for sale before buying him back for \$300,000. His name came from the family's online contest, in which a woman from Missouri submitted the winning moniker, but the misspelling—it should be pharaoh—wasn't noticed until the name was already official.

American Pharoah joined the

exclusive club of Triple Crown winners Sir Barton (1919), Galant Fox (1930), Omaha (1935), War Admiral (1937), Whirlaway (1941), Count Fleet (1943), Assault (1946), Citation (1948), Secretariat (1973), Seattle Slew (1977) and Affirmed.

A sign with American Pharoah's name and silks was quickly put up in the infield next to the 11 other Triple Crown winners.

The crowd of 90,000—capped to avoid overcrowding and long lines from last year's total of 102,199—roared as American Pharoah turned for home.

It's unlikely the champion heard them since American Pharoah wears ear plugs to block noise that might get him worked up.

Since 1978, the rigors of the Triple Crown had done in 13 other horses who won the Derby and the Preakness—with 12 losing the third leg and I'll Have Another scratched with a leg injury in 2012. Their failures left the sport and its fans craving a worthy successor to the 11 previous champions.

American Pharoah—his tail shortened after being bitten off on a farm when he was a youngster—turned out to be that horse.

"I was really getting to dislike this trophy—it's come with a lot of misery," Baffert said of the sterling silver Triple Crown trophy housed for the last 37 years in the Kentucky Derby museum.

"But it's owed to the fans of New York that kept paying their money, showing up, hoping. They finally got it."

Unlike Affirmed, who dueling Alydar in all three races, American Pharoah didn't have a specific rival since he was the only horse to run in all three Triple Crown races. Going into the Belmont, American Pharoah had beaten all of his seven challengers before.

And when the race known as "The Test of the Champion" came?

He passed, with flying colors.



OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The NBA Finals hyped as LeBron James vs. Stephen Curry now seems like James against the Golden State Warriors.

The Cavaliers are down another important player, with Kyrie Irving having surgery Saturday back in Cleveland to repair his fractured left kneecap.

And with what was an already short-handed Cavs team down 1-0 heading into Game 2 on Sunday night, a series that just started has the feel of one that could end quickly.

"(I) understand that we were the underdog coming into the series and with Kyrie being out people are writing us off," James said. "So, I mean, that's fine. That's fine. I'm motivated

NBA Finals go on, with Warriors seeming even bigger favorite

to get our guys ready to go tomorrow and we will be ready."

James seemed more downcast as he spoke then a day earlier, before the Cavaliers had revealed the severity of Irving's injury following an MRI exam. Irving had been hurt previously in the postseason and Cleveland had won without him, but this time was different.

"Obviously, we've been in this situation, but we always knew at some point he'll come back," James said. "Knowing that he's out for the rest of the finals and out for a period of a long time, first of all, it sucks for him personally. It's a huge blow for our team, especially at this stage."

The Warriors were already the favorites to win the championship after leading the NBA

with 67 victories during the regular season. Now, with Irving joining Kevin Love on the sideline, the Warriors were trying to brush away the suggestions that not only should they win, but do it easily.

"No series is unlosable," center Andrew Bogut said. "Stranger things have happened and they're still a great team with arguably the best player in the world. Obviously they're going to have other guys that have to step up to help him get wins, but we can't take this team lightly."

Curry said the mood in the Warriors' locker room was no different than it was going into the series.

"There is no pressure or added pressure, I don't think, because our goal stays the

same," Curry said. "We're not really listening to any outside noise or predictions, or who is favored to do what, because we control what we control. When we go out there and play, we've got to play better than we did in Game 1, and that is really our only focus."

Both teams noted how closely the Cavs were to winning Game 1, and in fact the series nearly had a decidedly different feel.

James and Iman Shumpert both missed jumpers on the final possession of regulation. Had either gone in, the Cavs would be the team with the 1-0 lead and would've avoided the overtime period that featured Irving's injury, which coach David Blatt said came when the All-Star point guard was

kneaded in his knee.

Blatt acknowledged the difficulty of losses like Game 1, saying "they cost you some hours of sleep." But he said the Cavs had moved forward from it.

"You'd love to see us at full strength, obviously, for the finals," he said. "The situation as it is, is what it is, and we are going to come out and play and play to win. Request no quarter and no sympathy. We've got to come out and play, and play to win. That's it."

Matthew Dellavedova was likely to replace Irving for the Cavs, who aren't nearly as deep as the Warriors. James said he could maybe play 40 to 42 minutes in a finals game, but it's hard to imagine even he could do much more than the 44

points he scored in Game 1.

Still, Warriors coach Steve Kerr said he would remind his players that the Cavaliers were "still a great team."

"They won two games against Atlanta without Kyrie," he added. "They're still loaded with talent. They're going to be loose. Now all the spotlight is going to be on this injury and all that stuff. It can't affect us. We just go out and play and we've got to do our thing."

The Warriors recalled having games during the regular season where they had a let-down because an opponent was without one of its top players and said they wouldn't let that happen now.

"We're not going to lay down for it just because their great player is out," reserve Andre Iguodala said.

Kelly snaps 9-start winless stretch, Red Sox beat A's



BOSTON (AP) — Joe Kelly pitched six

solid innings to earn his first win since his initial start of the season, Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run homer and the Boston Red Sox beat the Oakland Athletics 4-2 on Saturday.

The teams played a day after a fan at Fenway Park was struck in the head by a broken bat and suffered life-threatening injuries. Boston Police said Saturday she is expected to survive.

Ramirez also singled twice, David Ortiz hit an RBI double and Mike Napoli had a run-scoring single for the Red Sox, who won for the fourth time in six games.

Mark Canha hit a solo homer for Oakland, which lost for the third time in its last nine.

Kelly (2-4) gave up one run and four hits, striking out six and walking two to snap his career-worst, nine-start winless stretch. Koji Uehara, the fifth Red Sox pitcher, worked the ninth for his 13th save.

Jesse Chavez (2-6) allowed four runs and 10 hits in five innings.

Dodgers 2, Cardinals 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw allowed one hit and struck out 11 in eight innings against his October nemesis, and Los Angeles beat St. Louis with a big swing from Yasiel Puig in his return from the disabled list.

Puig snapped a scoreless tie in the seventh with an RBI double after missing the previous 39 games because of a strained left hamstring.

Kershaw (5-3) outpitched Jaime Garcia and lowered his ERA to 3.36. The left-hander led the majors in that category each of the past four seasons.

Kershaw lost to St. Louis in the finale of the 2013 NL Championship Series and the final game of the 2014 Division Series, making him 0-4 with a 7.15 ERA in his last four play-off starts against the Cardinals.

Cubs 4, Nationals 2

In Washington, Jason Hamel extended his mastery over Washington in an 11th impressive start, and Dexter Fowler had two hits and scored twice, leading Chicago to the win.

Hammel (5-2) improved to 9-0 with a 3.01 ERA in 11 starts against the Nationals. Anthony Rizzo and Jonathan Herrera each had two hits and drove in a run for Chicago.

Hammel allowed two runs and five hits in eight-plus innings, striking out seven and walking two. He departed after Bryce Harper hit his 19th homer of the season to open the ninth.

After Hector Rondon walked Anthony Rendon, Pedro Strop entered and finished for his second save.

Wilson Ramos also homered for the Nationals.

With starting pitchers Ste-



Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, right, scores on a single by Mike Napoli as Oakland Athletics' Stephen Vogt, left, bobbles the throw during the third inning of a baseball game in Boston, Saturday, June 6, 2015.

phen Strasburg and Doug Fister on the disabled list, the Nationals called on 22-year-old prospect Joe Ross (0-1) to make his major league debut.

Rangers 4, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Wandy Rodriguez pitched seven strong innings and Texas defeated Kansas City for its seventh win in eight games.

Texas has won six straight series for the first time since 2012. The AL champion Royals have lost nine of 11.

Rodriguez (3-2), a 36-year-old lefty who signed with the Rangers in early April after Atlanta released him in spring training, gave up one run and six hits. He walked none and struck out four.

Yordano Ventura (3-5) continued to struggle early, allowing four runs in the first two innings.

Giants 7, Phillies 5

In Philadelphia, Madison Bumgarner struck out 11, overcoming a grand slam by Jeff Francoeur to pitch San Francisco past Philadelphia.

Bumgarner (7-2) gave up the slam and a solo homer by Andres Blanco. The reigning World Series MVP gave up six hits and walked none in eight innings.

Bumgarner hit two singles and drove in a run as the Giants posted their fifth straight road win.

Nori Aoki got three hits and drove in two runs. He raised his major league-leading road batting average to .407.

Santiago Casilla pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17th save in 19 chances.

The Phillies have lost 10 of 12.

Severino Gonzalez (2-2) gave up six runs in 2 2-3 innings.

Tigers 7, White Sox 1

In Chicago, David Price struck out 11 in a five-hitter, Miguel

Cabrera homered and Detroit ended an eight-game losing streak, beating Chicago.

The four-time AL Central champion Tigers stopped their worst skid since 2005 and avoided falling below .500 for the first time this year.

Detroit finished with 18 hits after averaging 2.75 runs per game during their slide. Cabrera hit a two-run homer, his 12th.

Price (5-2) struck out seven straight batters in the middle innings. He walked two in his 13th career complete game.

Yankees 8, Angels 2

In New York, Brian McCann hit a two-run homer that helped chase Garrett Richards in a six-run first inning, and New York didn't have to fret in a win over Los Angeles that stretched its winning streak to five.

A night after giving up six runs in the ninth inning of an 8-7 win, New York had an early burst that enabled Adam Warren (4-4) to coast against the Angels, who fell behind 7-0 by the second inning. The AL East-leading Yankees have scored six or more runs in the first inning four times—which they had not done since 1948, according to STATS.

Richards (5-4) allowed eight of 10 batters to reach and retired just two batters, matching the shortest start of his big league career. He lasted 37 pitches, giving up six runs, five hits and two walks. Richards has alternated wins and losses in his last six starts.

Braves 5, Pirates 4

In Atlanta, Christian Bethancourt lined Vance Worley's first pitch in the ninth inning over the right-field wall for his first career homer, lifting Atlanta to a win over Pittsburgh.

Bethancourt had three hits, including the drive off Worley

(2-4). The ball, curving toward the foul pole, cleared the wall beyond the reach of right fielder Gregory Polanco.

Polanco had three hits, including a two-run single off Jim Johnson in the eighth that tied the score at 4.

Jason Grilli (1-2) pitched a perfect inning and the Braves ended Pittsburgh's four-game winning streak.

Rockies 10, Marlins 5

In Denver, Wilin Rosario homered twice and Carlos Gonzalez hit a three-run shot to back the solid pitching of Chris Rusin, and Colorado shrugged off another rain delay at Coors Field to beat Miami.

Thunder showers delayed the game's start for 71 minutes, the 13th time this season a game in Denver has been postponed or delayed by weather. Colorado has had a total of 15 hours, 40 minutes, of rain delays at home this season.

Once the weather cleared, the Rockies came out swinging, putting together a four-run inning in the first and a five-run inning in the fourth, when Rosario and Gonzalez teamed up to hit the first back to back home runs by the Rockies this season.

Blue Jays 7, Astros 2

In Toronto, Jose Reyes stole three bases and got two hits as Toronto won its season-high fourth in a row, handing Houston its third straight loss.

The AL West-leading Astros matched their longest skid of the year.

Reyes scored a run, drove in one and also walked.

Drew Hutchison (5-1) allowed one run and six hits in 6 1-3 innings, improving to 4-1 with a 2.72 ERA at home. He's 1-0 with a 7.80 ERA in six road starts.

The Astros failed to score

more than three runs for the fourth straight game and seventh time in their past nine.

Padres 9, Reds 7

In Cincinnati, Yonder Alonso's second career grand slam pulled San Diego even in the seventh inning, and Matt Kemp singled with the bases loaded in the eighth, completing the Padres' biggest comeback of the season in a victory over Cincinnati.

Alonso's homer off Tony Cingrani tied it 7-7 and completed a comeback from a 6-1 deficit. San Diego loaded the bases in the eighth with Abraham Almonte's pinch-hit double and a pair of walks by Jumbo Diaz (2-1). Kemp's single through the hole at shortstop gave him five RBIs overall.

Kemp also had a solo homer and a two-run double off Michael Lorenzen.

Brandon Maurer (2-0) retired the three batters in the seventh. Craig Kimbrel gave up a walk and a single in the ninth before fanning Zack Cozart for his 13th save in 14 chances.

Indians 2, Orioles 1

In Cleveland, Danny Salazar pitched impressively into the eighth inning to reach a career high in wins and Carlos Santana had a tiebreaking double as Cleveland beat Baltimore.

Salazar (6-1) struck out 10 and allowed six hits and a run in seven-plus innings. Baltimore's only run came on Manny Machado's third-inning homer. Salazar, who began the season in the minors, hasn't lost since May 5, a span of six starts.

Nick Swisher had an RBI single, and Santana drove in a run in the sixth off Brad Brach for the Indians' seventh win in 10 games. They are 15-7 since May 14.

Brach (3-2) retired the first two hitters in the sixth before

walking Jason Kipnis. Santana's line drive landed in the right field corner and Kipnis scored on a headfirst dive into the plate.

Brewers 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Carlos Gomez went 4 for 4 with a walk, tormenting his former team again with three RBIs over the last three innings to lift Milwaukee to a victory over Minnesota.

Gomez hit a two-run tie-breaking single in the seventh and an RBI double in the ninth. Matt Garza (4-7) threw seven strong innings, Ryan Braun homered for the first time in 12 days and the Brewers handed the Twins their second straight loss at home for the first time this year in front of the second-largest crowd at Target Field this season.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched a hitless ninth for his 10th save in 10 tries after Brian Dozier hit his 11th homer for the Twins off Jonathan Broxton in the eighth.

Diamondbacks 2, Mets 1

In Phoenix, Wellington Castillo hit a two-run homer with two outs in the seventh inning for his first hit with Arizona, lifting his new club over Bartolo Colon and New York.

Castillo, who came to Arizona this week in the trade that sent Mark Trumbo to Seattle, struck out four times in his Diamondbacks debut Friday but lined Colon's first pitch just over the left-field wall.

Colon (8-4) had blanked Arizona on three hits through six innings.

New York had led since Juan Lagares' home run in the second off Chase Anderson, who ended up with a no-decision for the ninth time in his 11 starts.

Randall Delgado (3-2) pitched a scoreless seventh to get the win, and Brad Ziegler escaped a ninth-inning jam for his sixth save when pinch-hitter John Mayberry Jr. bounced into a game-ending double play with two on.

Mariners 2, Rays 1

In Seattle, Austin Jackson's solo home run in the seventh inning broke a 1-1 tie and Seattle snapped a seven-game losing streak.

Felix Hernandez (9-2) allowed just one run on two hits in seven innings. Rookie Carson Smith notched his first career save for Seattle.

Seth Smith doubled to lead off the fourth inning off Rays starter Alex Colome and advanced to third on a single from Logan Morrison. Willie Bloomquist singled to give the Mariners a 1-0 lead.

Kevin Kiermaier tripled off Hernandez with one out in the sixth inning and scored on a wild pitch to even the game at 1-1. Jackson homered on the seventh pitch against Rays reliever Steven Geitz (1-2) take the lead for good.

Longuski tops Run For Nepal



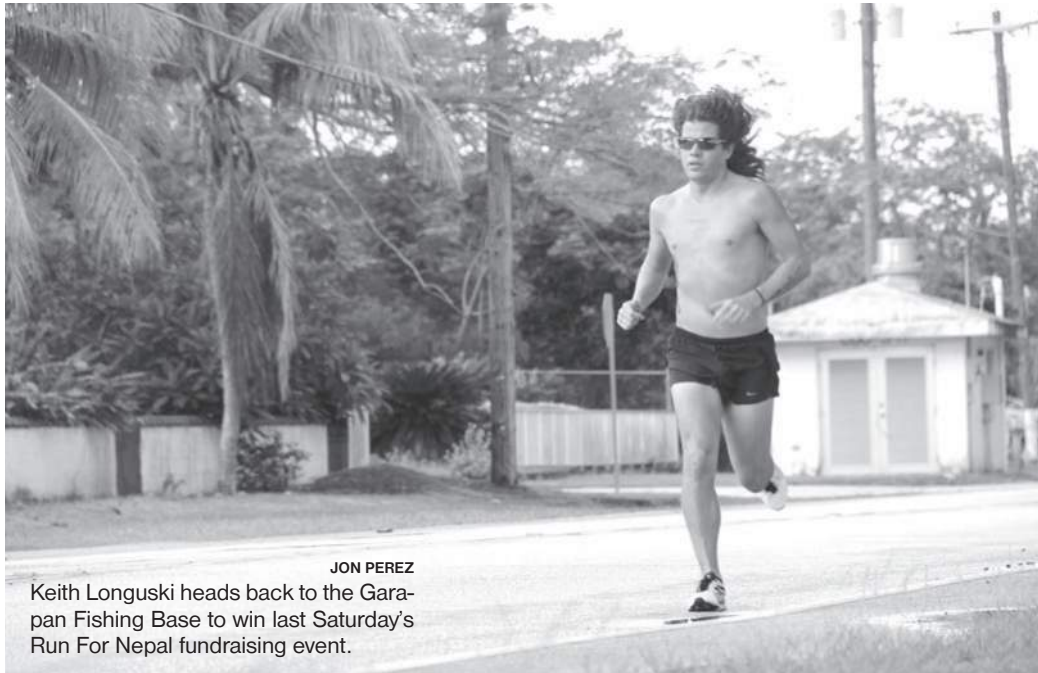
Keith Longuski and 13-year-old Ken Song were the fastest runners in last Saturday's 5K Run For Nepal fundraising event.

Proceeds of the fundraising drive, which started and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base right beside the Garapan Public Market, would be donated to the victims of the devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake that hit Nepal on April 25.

Longuski bested close to 150 runners that participated in the event, organized by the Saipan's Nepalese community in partnership with the Saipan Young Professionals.

The Commonwealth Health Center physician assistant, who has topped various running events on Saipan, finished the course in just 22 minutes to top the senior division (over 10 years old).

Jack Stewart reached the finish line three minutes behind Longuski at 25 minutes, while Alex Johanson was a close third



JON PEREZ
Keith Longuski heads back to the Garapan Fishing Base to win last Saturday's Run For Nepal fundraising event.

at 27 minutes.

Song, on the other hand, ruled the Under-11 age group as he crossed the finish line in 28 minutes followed by Joshua Abragan (30 minutes), while Sam Ryu placed third (32 minutes). Rex Pixley was fourth.

The final time of each finisher in the race was based after the 6:54am start time of all those who participated in the 5K race.

Organizers of the fundraising event said that more than 300 registered but chose not to run and instead donated the \$10 registra-

tion fee as their gesture to help the in the relief drive in Nepal.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan and Philippine Honorary Consul Eli Arago were among those who joined the event. *(Jon Perez)*

'Tan Ko' baseball field to get facelift

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada said the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field will be spruced up in time for the 2015 Junior, Senior, and Big League Asia-Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament, which Saipan is hosting later this month.

"We've hosted and done this before so we're ready to do it again. We've been doing this for many years and the last we hosted a regional tournament was in 2008," said Ada, who is also the regional tournament director.

Ada said DPW personnel and Northern Marianas Sports

Association staff would do the renovation which will run from June 15 to 24. The regional tournament will be from June 26 to July 4.

"We'll make sure the Tan Ko field is ready and in good condition to hold the games. Grounds crew, DPW staff, and also staff from the gym will work together," said Ada, a former CNMI district administrator.

"The logistics are in full gear and we expect the refurbishing to be done just in time before the June 26 opening. A grounds crew is also tasked to maintain the infield and outfield of the baseball field," he added.

The grandstands and dugouts will be given a fresh coat of paint, along with the officials

stand, while new nets will also be put in place around the areas where fly balls or home runs might land.

The nets will also protect the glass windows and doors of the rooms at Sun Palace Hotel, which is near the ballfield. Fly balls and home runs often land beside the said establishment.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo would help coordinate the project since the Oleai Sports Complex is now under the Commonwealth's sports governing body.

Ada also thanked Lynn B. Duenas for her more than two months of service as the organizing committee's secretary/treasurer. Duenas resigned last week due to personal issues.

"Though we're sad that Lynn resigned. Taking care of her

mother is her top priority, we respect her decision and we're sorry to see her leave the committee but family always comes first," said Ada.

He already appointed Saipan Little League vice president Annie Deleon Guerrero Flores, who is also tasked to handle the accommodation of the regional tournament, as Duenas' replacement.

Ada said that the Philippines' Big League team along with Australia and Hong Kong, which will be competing in the Junior and Senior divisions, are expected to arrive on June 24, while the other 12 squads will be on Saipan in time for the June 25 managers meeting and welcome reception.

Chinese-Taipei, Guam, and host CNMI are the other competing countries and they will be joined by Australia, Hong Kong, and the Philippines in the Junior League. The CNMI, Guam, Hong Kong and the Philippines are the Senior League teams, while Chinese-Taipei will defend its title against the CNMI, Guam, and the Philippines in the Big League.

ARMATECH

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basket and launch a comeback. Art Borromeo came off the bench and hit a triple to spark the surge, while Jethro Cruz logged 5 straight points off a triple and a layup, and Mendoza finished the run with another layup.

A triple from Mike Muna doused Armatech's fiery run, 48-45, but the latter went on to win the exchange in the last two minutes and grab the upper hand, 53-50, entering the fourth quarter.

In the final period, Armatech's lead ballooned to as much as 14 points with Mendoza, Fidelino, Cruz, and Mike Espinosa playing steady for the eventual champion and coach Joe Diaz getting quality minutes from Borromeo.

Fidelino started the fourth

frame with 5 straight points, while Espinosa also scored in streaks with his three field goals, as Armatech outgunned the Ol'Aces anew in first four minutes of the final canto, 11-3, to threaten a breakaway, 64-53.

The Ol'Aces fought back and moved within 5 points, 59-64, after getting baskets from Jesse and Jonathan Santos and Muna, with still 5:22 left on the clock. However, that was the closest that the Ol'Aces could get as Armatech went for the kill in the next three minutes, unloading an 11-2 bomb, highlighted by back-to-back triples from Borromeo and Espinosa.

Espinosa's first triple of the night put Armatech on top by 14, 75-61, with only 2:12 remaining in the game and the Ol'Aces failed to pull off a miracle in the closing minutes to settle for the runner-up honors.

Espinosa was among the four

Armatech players who scored in twin digits in the finals with his 13. Cruz led Armatech with his 20 markers, while Mendoza and Fidelino chipped in 15 and 13, respectively. Borromeo came off the bench and added 6, while fellow second stringers Iglecias and Adrian De Luna contributed 7 points total. Melvin Deocares completed Armatech's box score, tallying 3 points.

Jesse Santos had 14 to pace the Ol'Aces, while Muna and Jones registered 13 and 10, respectively.

Armatech 78 — Cruz 20, Mendoza 15, Espinosa 13, Fidelino 11, Borromeo 6, Iglecias 5, Deocares 3, De Luna 2.

Ol'Aces 66 — Je. Santos 14, Muna 13, Jones 10, Palino 8, Lampkin 7, Jo. Santos 7, Magofna 4, Nakashima 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 31-30, 53-50, 78-66.

Tiger shoots worst round of career, 85, at Memorial

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP)—Tiger Woods hit a new low with a career high.

Right when it looked as though Woods was slowly making some semblance of progress, he posted an 85 on Saturday at the Memorial for the worst score of his career. It was three shots higher than the 82 he shot in the second round of the Phoenix Open in January, which led to him taking a two-month break from competition until he could get his game in order.

Woods ended his front nine with back-to-back double bogeys for a 42. Needing a par on the 18th hole to avoid his worst score, he hooked his tee shot into the water, flubbed two chips from short of the green and took a quadruple-bogey 8.

It was his third round in the 80s as a pro.

Woods, who had to make a 6-foot par putt on the final hole Friday just to make the cut, declined interview requests, walking out the door to sign a few autographs. About 20 minutes later, his coach and caddy were sitting at a curb waiting for a van to come by to get them.

He was in last place, meaning he would play as a single Sunday for the first time in his career.

"I'm not only surprised, I feel very bad for him," tournament host Jack Nicklaus said. "He's struggled health-wise. He struggled with his short game earlier in the year. He feels like he's coming back and then he does this. I don't have an answer for it, an explanation.

"I'm sure that he probably doesn't, either."

The broader question is where this leaves him with a full summer of majors ahead.

Woods showed remarkable improvement when he returned from his break at the Masters with a tie for 17th, though he was never serious-

ly in contention. And while he had to make putts on his final hole just to survive the cut in his last two tournaments, it still was the first time in more than a year that he made the cut in three straight starts.

And now this. He missed a 4-foot par putt at the par-3 fourth that was above the hole. He three-putted for bogey on the par-5 fifth with another 4-foot putt above the hole that he barely tapped. His round unraveled on the par-3 eighth when he caught a tough lie in the bunker, hit it thin over the green into another bunker and made double bogey. And then he made another double bogey when his approach to a front pin came short and into the water.

Worse than the score was that Woods was rarely in position to make birdie—he had only one in his round of 85.

He shot a 70 on Friday in the second round, with two late bogeys, though his putter atoned for mediocrity. He made two putts from the 30-foot range, another from 20 feet and two others from about 15 feet.

On Saturday, he missed three putts from the 5-foot range on the front nine alone. And in the end, all that mattered was how big the number was going to be.

And it was big. Woods had only one round in the 80s over the first 14 years of his PGA Tour career—the 81 at Muirfield when he was caught in a Saturday gale at the British Open. He now has two scores in the 80s in his last 12 rounds.

It spoiled a big day for Zac Blair, the baby-faced rookie from Utah who was so fired up about his first pairing with Woods that his father flew in overnight to watch. Dad is James Blair, who played on the PGA Tour in 1984 and now is a golf director in Ogden.



FORZA

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The four semifinalists were determined via rankings after each squad played four matches. Tan Holdings Chrome topped the seven-team field with its perfect 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record, while Kanoa Rangers 1 came in at second with its 3-0-1 slate. Forza MPU was the last to gain a semis seat as it logged a 2-0-2 mark and earned 7 points, one point behind the third-ranked Paire No.1s, which posted a 2-1-1 card.

Meanwhile, in Group B Hun-

ger Goals, which is a team of Shirley's FC players, foiled a MP United sweep in the U12 division after prevailing against MPU 1 in the finals, 2-0.

William Celeste and Katrina Costales scored one goal apiece in the victory. Kristopher Laquian, Joeref Dalawampu, Rian Jewel Cadag, Gabriel Arkoh, and Adriana Tamparong are the other members of the winnings squad, while Fradel Sedillo is the coach.

Hunger Goals finished second in the elimination round with its 3-0-1 record to make it to the semis. Actually, Hunger Goals tied MPU 1 and 2 for

first place with their identical marks, but the latter took the top seeding after winning the tiebreak. MP United 2 dropped to third, while Kanoa with its 1-0-3 slate completed the Top 4. Paire missed the semis with its 0-0-4 record.

In the semifinals, MP United 2 secured the first finals berth after downing Kanoa, 4-2, while Hunger Goals averted an all-MPU title showdown after slipping past MP United 1, 2-1.

Meanwhile, results in the U8 and U10 divisions of the annual tournament will be reported on *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

5K Run For Nepal

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Warm up and stretching first before last Saturday's 5K Run For Nepal.



Rommel Buenaflor enjoys the early morning run.



The lead group of runners head out to the course during Saturday's 5K Run For Nepal, a fundraising event for the benefit of the earthquake victims in Nepal.



Saipan's barefoot runner Chang Wang Jang.



Two runners head back to Garapan Fishing Base.



Philippine Honorary Consul Eli Arago, right, was among those who participated in last Saturday's fundraising event.



Lawyer Steven Pixley.



Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez, third left, runs along with a small group.



The run-for-a-cause also attracted the young.



Raymond Tolentino smiles as he heads back to the starting line.



A participant is a picture of concentration.



Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general Robin Sapong.



American
Pharoah runs
into history with
Triple Crown

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Longuski tops
Run For Nepal

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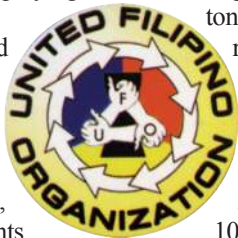
Armatech bags U20 championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech brought home the U20 division championship in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League following a 78-66 victory against the Ol'Aces last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech defeated the Ol'Aces after working its way back from a 10-point deficit in the third period and playing a solid fourth quarter.

The Ol'Aces posted their biggest lead, 45-35, at the 5:02 mark of third canto, as they held Armatech to two field goals, while scoring 15 points in nearly the first five minutes of the second half. Jesse Santos led the early run, nailing 7 straight points, Jonathan Santos and Mike Muna added one triple each, while Andrew Palino posted the other 2 points.



Armatech, which got its two field goals in that meltdown from Kobe Mendoza and Jun Fidelino, pressed the panic button after the Ol'Aces' rally; and when the game resumed countered with its own 10-0 spurt to return to business. Armatech stared at a 10-point deficit in the third as it committed several errors off screenplays outside before making the proper spacing later to get open looks at the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Armatech's Kobe Mendoza goes up for an acrobatic shot against the Ol'Aces' Darrian Jones during the second quarter of their U20 division title game in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SIDEBAR

Espinosa wins U20 MVP trophy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech's Mike Espinosa led the individual awardees in the U20 division of 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League after getting the MVP trophy last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Espinosa earned the coveted award for his notable showing in the regular season and consistent performance in the playoffs. The 6'0" Armatech player, who has a good shooting touch from the 3-point area, averaged nearly 17 points (16.7) in the round-robin regular season, scoring in twin digits in all but one of their four games.

The Marianas High School standout registered 24 points in their 72-51 victory over Blue Haus, had 20 in their 85-73 win against Gilas, and logged 16 in their 83-96 defeat at the hands of the Ol'Aces. The only time Espinosa failed to break into double figures (7 points) was in their 69-74 loss to regular season champion Sonics.

In the playoffs, Espinosa fired 20 markers to lift Armatech to a finals berth-clinching win over Blue Haus, 86-71. In the finals, he gained 13 points, 11 of them came in the fourth quarter as Armatech broke the Ol'Aces to steal the championship. His triple from the right key capped a pivotal 11-2 run and secured the win for Armatech as they led, 75-61, 2:12 to go in the final canto. Espinosa and Armatech went on to notch a double-digit winning margin in the finals, 78-66.

Meanwhile, Espinosa also made it to the Mythical Team, joining fellow Armatech player Kobe Mendoza, Sonics' Jack Aranda, the Ol'Aces' Jesse Santos, and Gilas' Patrick Salalila.



Espinosa

Forza MPU, Hunger Goals win U12 3v3 tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Forza MPU and Hunger Goals clinched the U12 division titles in the 2015 NMIFA 3v3 Grassroots Football Day Tournament and held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Forza MPU took the U12 crown in Group A after pulling off a come-from-behind 4-3 victory against Kanoa Rangers 1 in the finals. Kanoa led, 2-0, midway in the first half off Ian Maniango's pair of goals before Rintaro Miyawaki anchored Forza MPU's fight-back to steal the win. Miyawaki had a hat-trick in the finals, while Jeremiah Diaz nailed the other goal for Forza MPU. Jaydee Jose tallied the other goal for Kanoa Rangers 1.

Joining Diaz and Miyawaki on the champion team are Howard Grafton Jr., Daniele Colombo, Rinto Takahashi, Jon Villagomez, and Erie Kate Ortega. Kennedy Izuka and Jason Kim are the squad's coaches.

Forza MPU and Kanoa Rangers 1 made it to the finals after recording contrasting wins in the semis. Forza MPU shut down Tan Holdings Chrome, 2-0, while Kanoa Rangers 1 nosed out Paire No.1s, 6-7, in the other Final Four pairing.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Hunger Goals player kicks the ball, while an MP United 2 defender looks on during their Group B U12 division title in the 2015 NMIFA 3v3 Grassroots Football Day Tournament last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.